

**SOUVENIR PROGRAM
& PRESS GUIDE**

1978 HOBBS HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

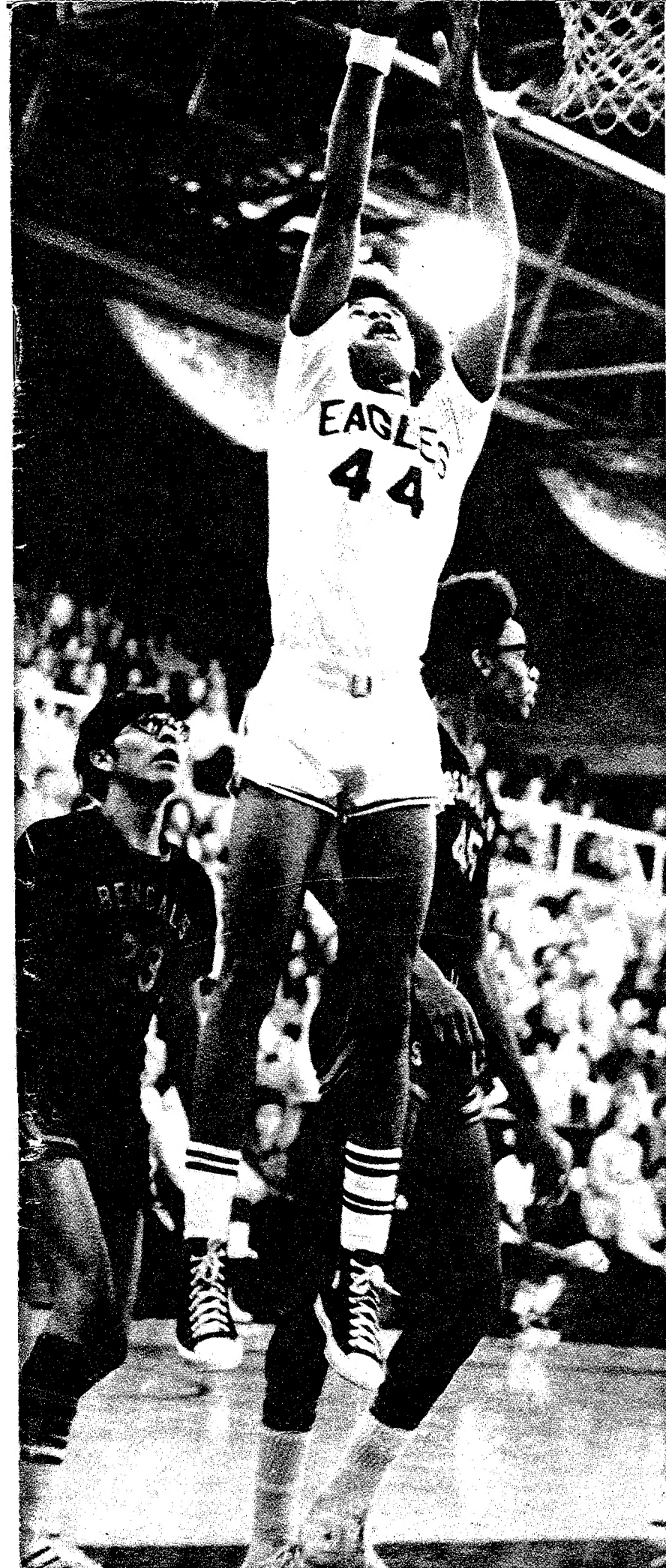
**RALPH TASKER
ARENA**

Hobbs, New Mexico

**December
27-28-29**

- *Hobbs, New Mexico*
- *Albuquerque Valley, N.M.*
- *Mesa, Arizona*
- *Casa Grande, Arizona*
- *Altus, Oklahoma*
- *El Paso Irvin, Texas*
- *El Paso Bel Aire, Texas*
- *Plainview, Texas*

(Hobbs News-Sun photo)



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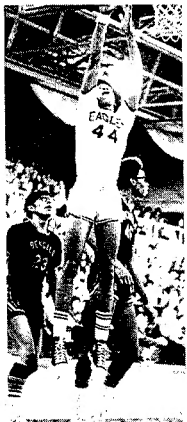
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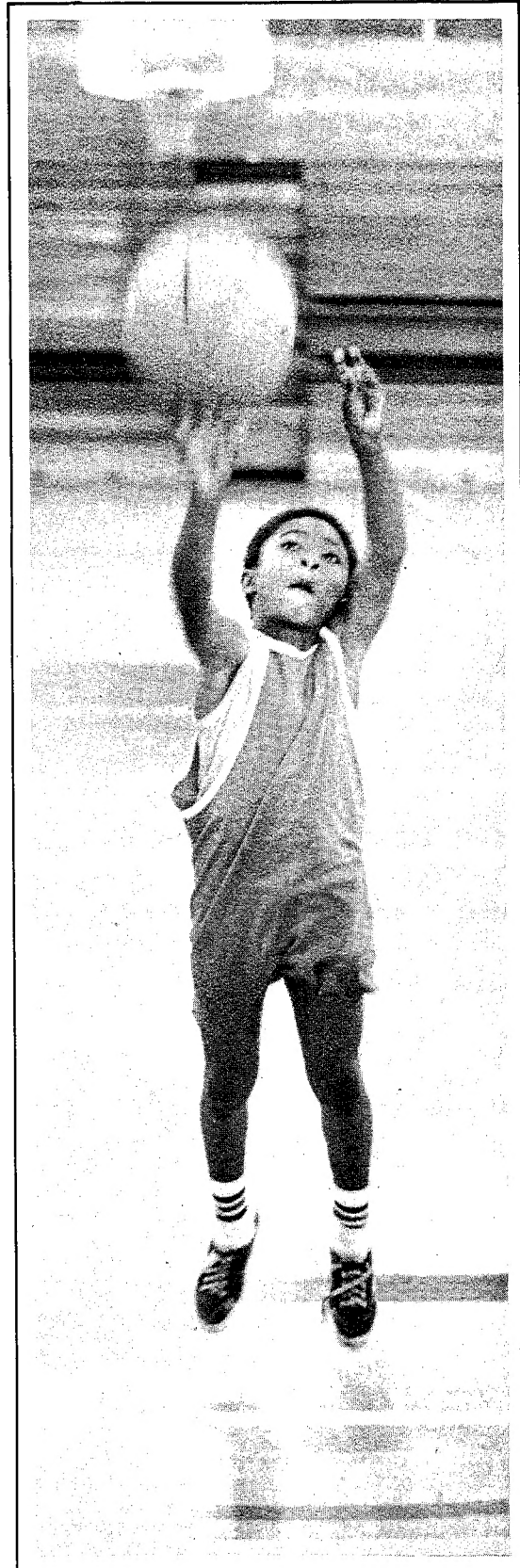
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COVER:

One dozen high school All-Americans have played in the annual Hobbs Holiday Tournament since 1958, and two of them performed in the 1972 finals. The Eagles Richard Robinson (44) scores an easy layup against Gallup as the Bengals' 6-8 Melvin Baker (45) starts down the court. Hobbs won 81-61; Robinson later played at New Mexico State and was drafted in 1977 by the NBA San Antonio Spurs. (Hobbs News-Sun photo)



Welcome To Hobbs...



This, the 21st annual Hobbs Holiday Tournament, again brings together teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico.

By Manny Marquez

Welcome to the 21st Hobbs Holiday Tournament. What started out as something of a neighborhood get-together now ranks as one of the finest basketball tournaments in the Southwest.

Last December, basketball fans in Southeastern New Mexico were able to watch top-notch players like Hobbs' Jeff Taylor (Texas Tech), Ysleta Bel Air's Richard Munoz (New Mexico State), East Phoenix' Cody Williams (Oklahoma) and Phoenix St. Mary's junior Paul Williams all in the same day.

It all began in 1958. The entries

Speed is the name of the game in Southeastern New Mexico, and this Hobbs Eagle was one of the best. In 1973, Vernon Patterson clocked 9.5 and 21.5 for national powerhouse which has won seven New Mexico AAAA track titles.

came in all sizes. Hobbs and Clovis were here. So were the Eagles' Lea County neighbors Eunice and Lovington. Also here were Abernathy, Seminole and Andrews — all from Texas. Magdalena even showed up.

Since that first tournament when Hobbs upended Andrews, Texas for the championship (see chart on page 19), many great teams and individuals have shared the spotlight in Ralph Tasker Arena.

Lubbock Monterey became the first team other than Hobbs to win the tournament in 1964, defeating Plainview in the only championship game so far that hasn't featured the host Eagles. A 6-foot, 9-inch giant named Ronnie Peret had seen to it by scoring a gym-record (at the time) 40 points while guiding the Texans to a victory over Ralph Tasker's dribblers in the semifinals (see page 28).

"I remember that kid," Tasker said the other day. "He just ate us alive that night. A lot of good athletes seem to rise to the occasion against us."

The Monterey team that won the 1964 tournament was coached by Gerald Myers, now the head basketball coach at Texas Tech. He now has three former Eagles on his roster: Kent Williams, Jeff Taylor and Steve Smith. All three earned all-state recognition at Hobbs.

But there have been many other visiting players of Peret's caliber playing roundball in the Hobbs Holiday Tournament. For example, Jack Mildren — the classy wishbone quarterback at Oklahoma and later a defensive back for the Baltimore Colts — played for Abilene Cooper in the 1967 tournament. He scored 38 points in one game, doing it slightly more than a week after guiding Cooper into the Texas AAAA football finals.

Nobody has dominated the tournament the way John Wilson of Odessa High did in 1968. In three games,



Guard Anthony Henry (66) opens running alley for tailback Latrail Jones (27), now a star for the University of Wyoming, during Hobbs-West Mesa game in 1973. Blocking such as this powered Eagles to 18-14 quarterfinal win on way to AAAA title game with Clovis.

(Hobbs News Sun photo)

Home Of The Eagles

Wilson scored 26, 41 and 43 points for a three-game total of 110 points. His 43-point effort is still good enough to share the arena individual scoring record (Hobbs All-American Richard Robinson tied it twice) and came against Hobbs in the Bronchos' 88-84 win over the Eagles in the finals that year.

The great visiting teams have included Pampa, Texas, winners of many Texas schoolboy crowns — although the Harvesters didn't come to Hobbs when Randy Matson of world-shot-put-record fame was playing.

Spring Branch of Houston played in the 1966 classic, while Oklahoma has sent teams from Altus, Clinton, Lawton and Duncan. The great El Paso Eastwood team that won the 1975 Texas "big school" crown also won the Hobbs Tournament that season.

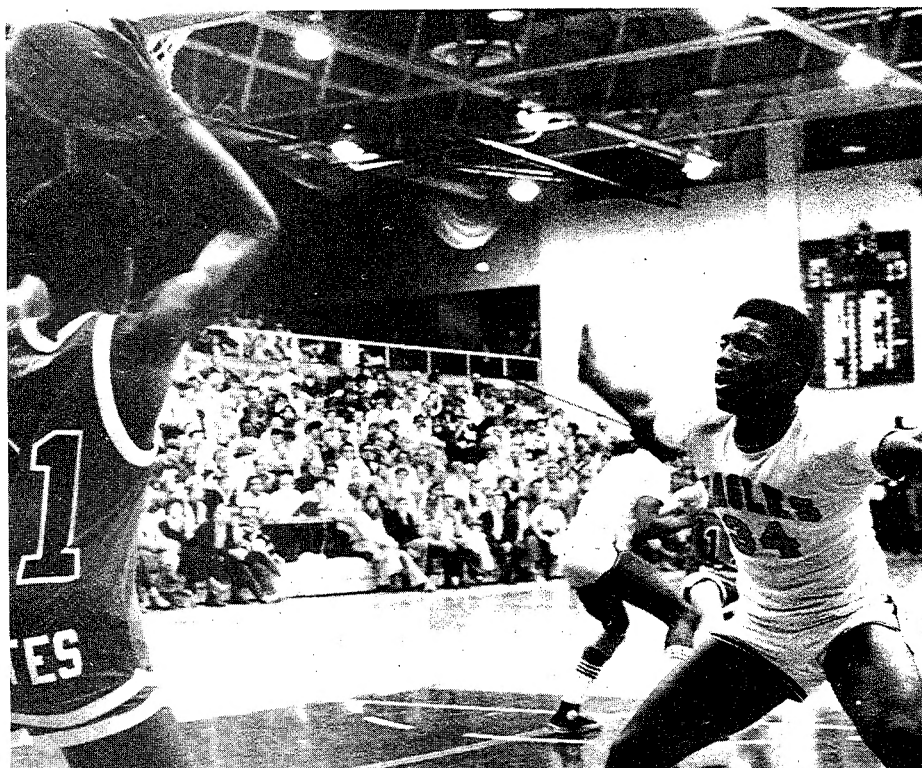
Las Cruces High, coached by Lou Henson, was runnerup to Hobbs in both the 1960 and 1961 tournaments. Las Cruces went on to win the New Mexico state championship both of those years under Henson, who is now the head coach at the University of Illinois.

East Phoenix, year-after-year the basketball powerhouse in the Grand Canyon State, played in the last two holiday classics. The hometown Eagles defeated Royce Youree's Longhorns each year, 102-82 and 107-91. East did not win the AAA title in Arizona those years, but neither did the Eagles in New Mexico.

Phoenix St. Mary's, ranked as one of the top 20 teams in the U.S.A. this season by *Street & Smith Basketball Yearbook*, fell 106-81 to Hobbs in last year's semifinals. The Knights were supposed to be here this year, but decided to head for greener pastures in Las Vegas, where they hope to improve in the win-loss column against the best from Nevada and California.

How and why did the Hobbs Holiday Tournament get started?

The Souvenir Program and Press Guide for the 1978 Hobbs Holiday Tournament is published by the Southwest Sports News Service, 4115 E. Catalina Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 85018. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting the Hobbs Athletic Department.



No schoolboy cage team in the Southwest has scored more points in a single game than Hobbs did last season during a 176-49 lopsided victory over Roswell. Here Steve Smith (34), now a guard at nearby Texas Tech, gets after Roswell's Chuck Hicks on the press. The Eagles took the ball away from Roswell 75 times and grabbed a school-record 84 rebounds.

Some folks will tell you it was over the dissatisfaction of local athletic officials with the officiating in the Roswell Invitational — now called the Poe Corn Tournament. The Eagles won the prestigious Roswell classic twice before starting a tournament of their own.

"We felt that since we had this big gym here with all those seats, all of our great fans needed a good tournament to watch," Tasker has said. "We started it and it just grew and grew."

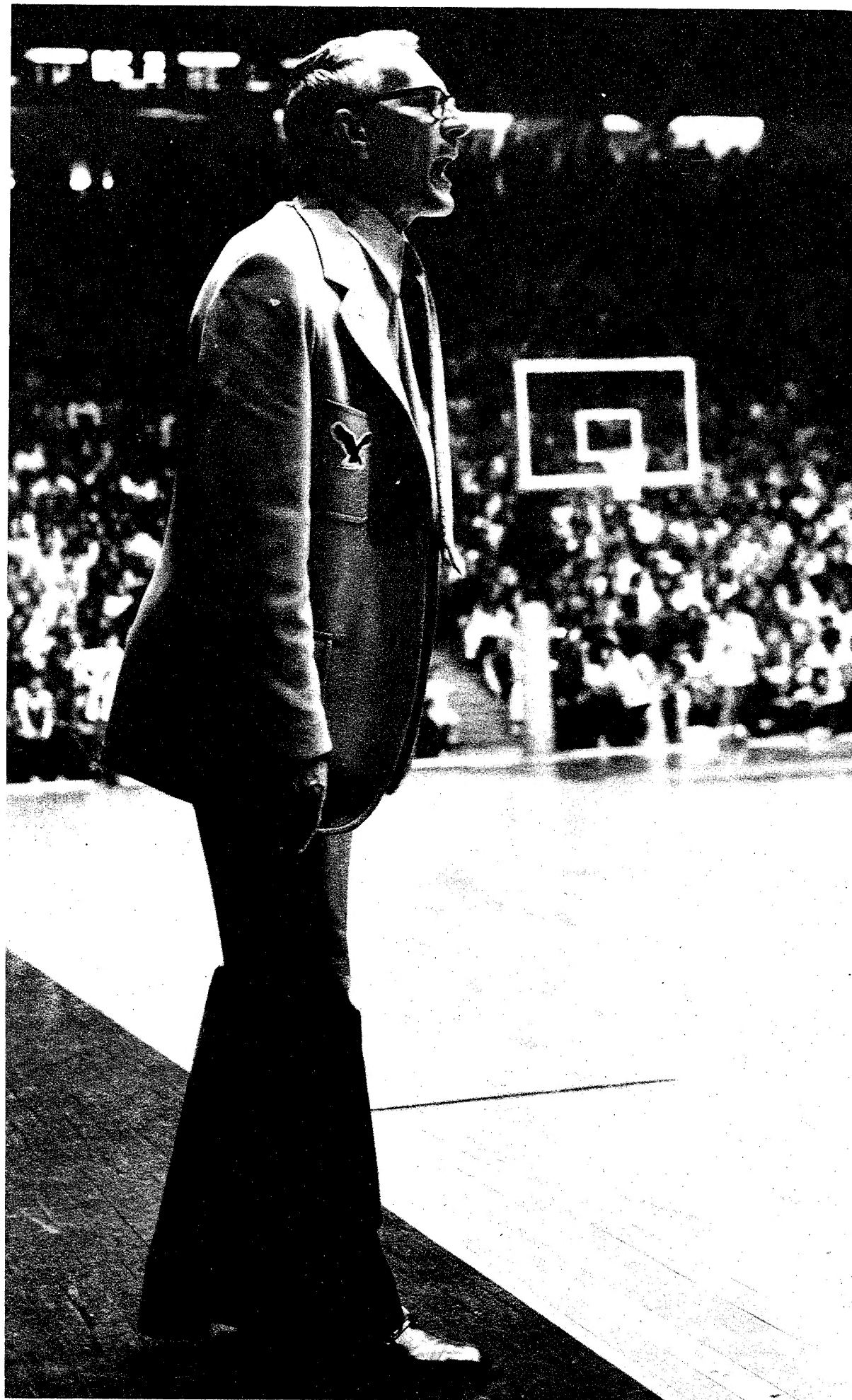
It's not all that has grown. In the past 20 years the overall athletic program at Hobbs has grown into one of the best of its kind in the United States. Not many schools in the country can brag about being a true national power in two sports — basketball and track — but the Eagles can.

Not many schools can boast of state championships in football, basketball and track like the Eagles. The athletic plant in Hobbs is second to none in the Southwest and has gained national

recognition in recent years. Although basketball was the sport which put Hobbs on the map, the Eagles were winning state football championships on the gridiron long before Ralph Tasker ever moved to town.

Coach Herb West guided the Eagles through a near-perfect 9-1-1 campaign in 1931 — the second year Hobbs fielded a football team. It was the first of four state championships in football at Hobbs before the Eagles ever won a basketball title. Altogether, Hobbs has won six "big school" football crowns, playing the toughest schedule of any prep team in New Mexico.

The people of Hobbs are proud of their Eagles and the great facilities which have grown out of their success. As Ralph Tasker said about the Holiday Tournament, "We just started it and it just grew and grew." Yes, Hobbs has come a long way, on and off the basketball court.





THE GREATEST Basketball SHOW ON EARTH

It's spotlighted annually in Ralph Tasker Arena: little bitty mascots, the Taskervitch Band, the vocal "sixth" man and the famed Hobbs Eagles. P.T. Barnum and James Bailey would have been impressed.

By Barry Sollenberger

Yes, P. T. Barnum, James Bailey and the Ringling Brothers would have been impressed. Watching this sport called basketball, played annually in Ralph Tasker Arena.

You have to see it to believe it.

Following the footsteps of the many youngsters who have called themselves Hobbs' Eagles is a treat all basketball fans everywhere should experience.

The basketball show established by Ralph Tasker in 1949 has grown into the most widely publicized schoolboy program in the Southwest. It's just too bad the rest of the country hasn't seen the Eagles play in Hobbs.

Stories written about Mr. Tasker's work are always dotted with superlatives, as countless numbers have written volumes about this fabulous thing called Hobbs basketball while working on papers foreign to Hobbs soil.

But why such a tremendous following of this program? Why not write about the great high school teams in the East, the Midwest, or in California? They use the same fundamentals, you know: one ball, five players on the court, one head coach, etc.

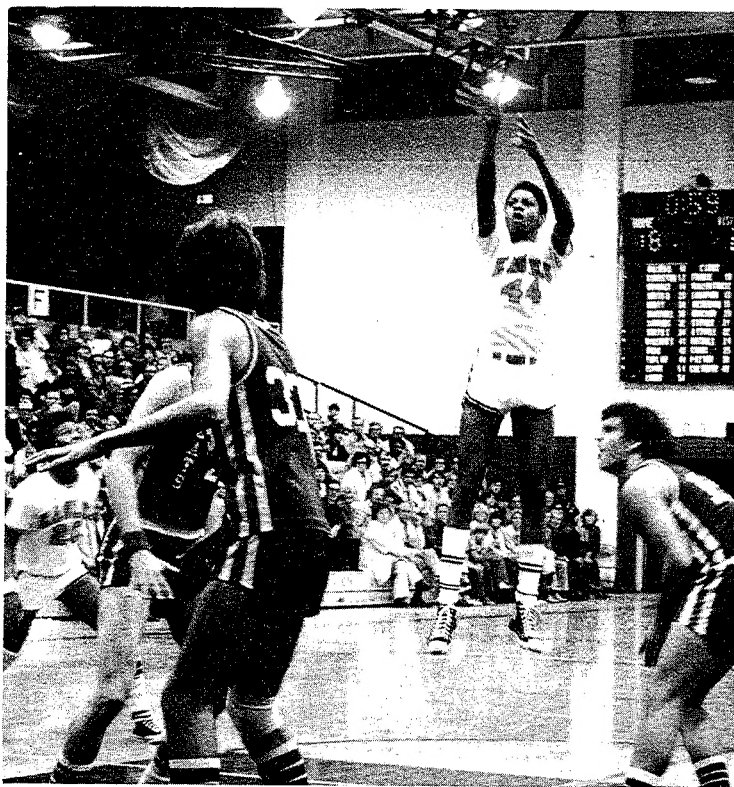
Ah, but that is where we get the difference. On the court itself. The late

Conrad Russell, former editor of the *Southwest Sports News Service*, once commented: "If you're a basketball fan, high school, college or pro, you haven't seen anything until you've seen the Eagles play in Hobbs."

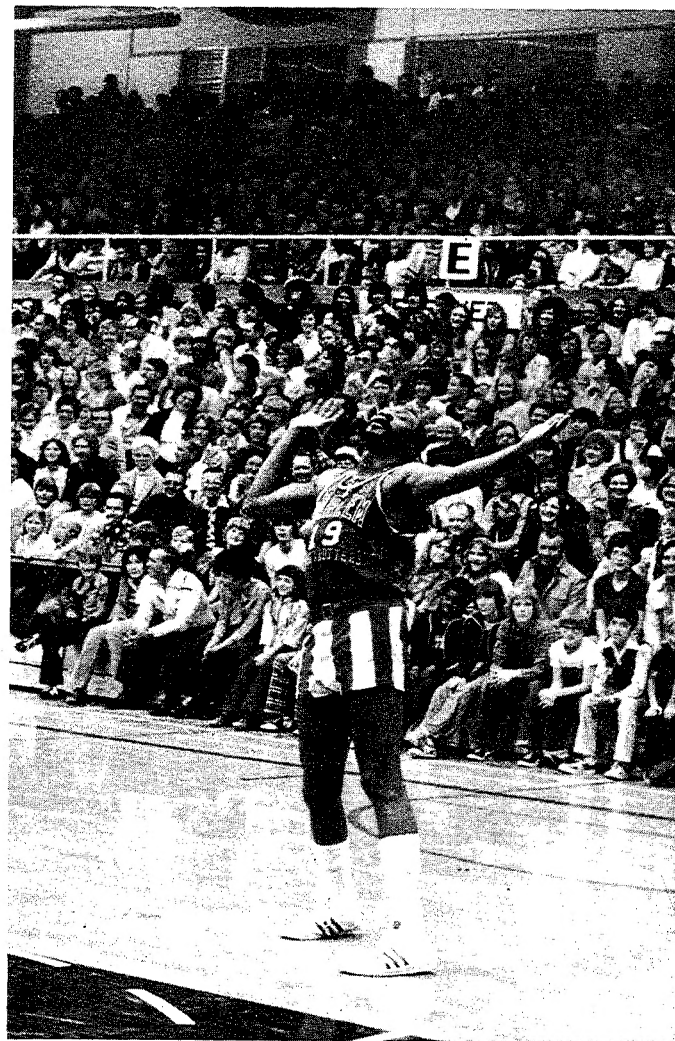
Throw one basketball into a batch of Hobbs' Eagles and they're liable to score 170 points in a district championship game, 101 points in one half, 51 points in a single quarter, grab 84 rebounds in a 32 minute contest, force an opponent into 75 turnovers, average over 100 points per game or paste together a 53-game winning streak.

(continued)

GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



ALL-AMERICAN — Hobbs' Jeff Taylor (44) fires from the top of the circle in 90-72 conquest of Clovis in 1977. **PACKED TO THE RAFTERS** — Tasker Arena is never large enough to accommodate the thousands who turn out each year to see the Harlem Globetrotters. Mel Davis (19) is shown here in a gramatic gesture, which has delighted Hobbs' fans for years. (Hobbs News Sun photo)



A little guy named Max Proctor might drop in 46 free throws without a miss, or a Kim Nash might stash away 45 points in a state tournament game. A Larry Robinson might come along and score 100 points in a three-game state tournament; then younger brother Richard will erase all of Larry's school scoring records...

The beat goes on.

Little bitty tots who wear out countless pairs of basketball shoes in the shadows of Tasker Arena have grown into great big fellows with names like Bill Bridges, Joe Ussery, Hardy Ray Murphy, Larry Williams and Jeffrey Taylor.

Forty-five Eagles have earned first team all-state honors. Eighty-eight have attended four-year colleges on athletic scholarships. Ten have been drafted by the pros.

"There are many people who criticize Ralph Tasker's program," insists Manny Marquez, sports editor of the local *Hobbs Daily News-Sun*. "You can put them in three different categories: 1) people who have heard about Hobbs but have never been here before, 2) competitive coaches and

their players, and 3) parents of competitive players. They just don't seem to be as excited about the Hobbs basketball program as the Eagles are."

Nobody's perfect and the Eagles are no exception. During 31 years of coaching basketball at the same 80-miles-per-hour pace, Tasker-coached teams have lost 195 games. They've posted only one undefeated season (1966) when the Eagles finished 28-0

"Have you ever played against an army of basketball players? It was like fighting an endless swarm of locusts."

and won their fourth New Mexico big school championship.

But Tasker-coached teams have won 712 games. Before the 1969 National Coach of the Year retires he'll have a realistic shot at the national prep coaching record of 924 victories, established by Eric Staples of Perry, Ga., between 1938 and 1965.

"Ralph Tasker has a fantastic basket-

ball program," says John MacLeod, head coach of the NBA Phoenix Suns. "I have been there and fantastic is the best word to use to describe it."

When you play Hobbs, what do you expect the Eagles to do? Whitey Coffman, head coach at Las Cruces High, says he expects Hobbs "to do the same thing they do from the sixth grade through the twelfth. Press."

"But you haven't seen a press until you've seen the Eagles play in Hobbs," adds Coffman. The Eagles even lose in style. Coaches like Coffman have seen to that. In a 1975 state semifinal collision with Hobbs, Las Cruces shot a torrid 72.4 percent from the field to gun down the Eagles 101-96 before 9,000 fans in Albuquerque's famous University Arena, called the "Pit."

"What is it like to beat Hobbs? Just watch the reaction from players or fans in Albuquerque when they beat Hobbs," concludes Coffman. "When we beat them in the state tournament in 1975 one of our players told me it was the biggest thrill of his life."

Yes, the Eagles lose in style. In 1972, Carlsbad gained revenge for a 170-104 licking two years earlier by nipping the

Eagles 123-121 in the famous "bomb scare" game in Carlsbad. With Hobbs leading 46-36 in the second quarter, over 3,000 fans were forced to evacuate Caveman Gymnasium when play was interrupted by a bomb scare phoned in to the play-by-play announcer on the radio. A brigade of law enforcement officers searched every nook, cranny and trash disposal in the house for a bomb. Nothing was found.

The only bombs that fell went through the hoops, as 3,000 fans returned to watch the Cavemen rally from a 99-90 third quarter deficit to win, 123-121. Not many high school basketball teams score 121 points and lose.

Hearbreaks galore:

In 1971, Hobbs rode into the state tournament with a 108 point per game scoring clip. Albuquerque High popped that bubble. With over 12,000 fans and a statewide television audience looking on, the Bulldogs ended Hobbs' five-year reign of terror in the New Mexico Quad-A wars with an 81-80 triumph.

Then there was Abilene in 1976. Guard Mark Pierce penetrated the famed Hobbs fullcourt press and forward David Little burned the nets for 40 points as the Texans crushed the Eagles 124-84 in Abilene. It was the second worst defeat ever handed a Ralph Tasker-coached team.

"It was a nightmare that I'll never forget," smiles Tasker two years later, remembering the good along with the bad. "They went through our press like it wasn't even there. The following year we beat them in Hobbs 128-100. Abilene and Abilene Cooper have two outstanding teams. Well coached and well drilled."

Which reaches the crux of another small matter. Who do the Eagles play?

"We play many teams that have athletic programs just like ours," says athletic director Gene Wells, one of the most successful track coaches in New Mexico history. "We just happen to have a better basketball coach than most."

"But we sure don't have a monopoly on all the good facilities and coaches," adds Wells. "You should see the schools in Carlsbad, Artesia or Clovis. Then there's all those great Texas schools."

"Believe me, Hobbs knows what it's like to play top-notch competition," insists Gerald Myers, head basketball coach at Texas Tech in Lubbock. "When you travel some 500 miles into Texas and play schools like Houston Wheatley you know you've played

somebody. Texas may be known for its football, but I tell you, we have some fine basketball players and teams down here. Don't forget, there's over ten-million people in the state."

"I saw the Houston Wheatley-Hobbs game in 1972," remarked Sam

Miranda, assistant at the University of Kansas. "Both teams had a tremendous offensive night. Hobbs had a real fine high school team as they always do, but Wheatley, without question, had one of the top five teams in the country. They had tremendous offen-

What! No Defense?

One of the quickest ways of getting Ralph Tasker's dander up is for somebody to even hint slightly that the Hobbs Eagles are an all-offense, no-defense basketball club.

Lord, have mercy! That'd be like saying boo on baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet ... at a General Motors board meeting.

One fellow who shall remain nameless did wonder about the Eagles' ability to play defense recently. He had a couple of good reasons for doing so, however. For one thing, he is fairly new in town and therefore doesn't yet fully understand how the Hobbs Eagles operate. Then, too, he let cold statistics misguide him.

He read the figures under the columns "pts." and "opp." in the District 4AAAA standings and couldn't quite comprehend what he was reading. Here were the Hobbs Eagles, rated No. 1 in New Mexico and the regular-season 4AAAA champions, and they had just gotten through giving up more points than lowly Roswell.

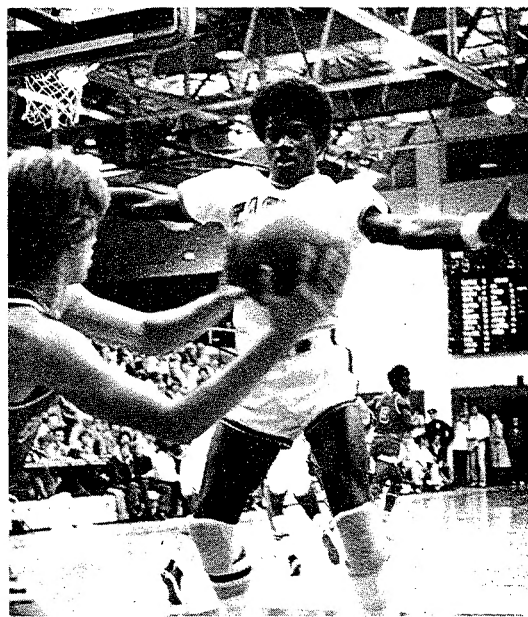
The reasons why are quite simple, really. All one has to do is go straight to Tasker. To begin with, the HHS coach begins, the Hobbs Eagles do play defense. A whole lot of it.

"Defense is 90 percent of our game," Tasker said. "That's what wins games for us. Really, defense is where you can tell whether a team has pride or not. When a player lets an opponent drive around him on the baseline, that guy either isn't taking much pride in his defense or he's loafing."

Okay, then, if the Hobb's attack is 90 parts defense, why the big number of points given up? That's easy to explain too, especially if you've been hearing that question for over 20 years now.

"I think the biggest reason why teams usually score more points against us than other teams is because we give them the ball so much," he said. "Usually we'll score around 40 field goals a game. Then we'll give it back 25 or 28 more times on turnovers. That's nearly 70 times that we're giving a team a chance to score and that means we're having to play defense about 75 percent of the game."

One must remember that when the Hobbs Eagles are on offense, they don't keep their hands on the ball for very long. At the most, Hobbs handles the ball 15 seconds before shooting or turning it over. Usually it's much shorter than that ... like three to five seconds, or whatever it takes to score on a layup.



DEFENSE: The Hobbs' fullcourt press!

Tasker presents an excellent case using that 170-104 game of games between Hobbs and Carlsbad in the finals of the 1970 District 4AAAA Tournament. Had the Cavemen been using a deliberate offense that night, there's no possible way the Eagles could have done what they did.

"That night in 1970 when we did so well against Carlsbad, the only reason we did it was because Carlsbad scored 104 points," he said. "They were turning the ball back to us just as quickly as we were. If Carlsbad hadn't scored 104 points, there's no possible way we could have scored that many. It was just that Carlsbad was scoring well and that just gave us the basketball more times."

Assistant Coach James Richards suggested that perhaps a better measuring stick to apply in Hobbs' case is the margin of victory. "Any time you beat a team by 20 points, you know you had to be playing better defense," Richards claims.

"I honestly feel that the Hobbs Eagles play better defense than anybody we play against," Tasker said. "If we didn't, we'd get beat every time. Anybody who says we don't play defense just hasn't been watching us play very closely."

The defense rests its case.

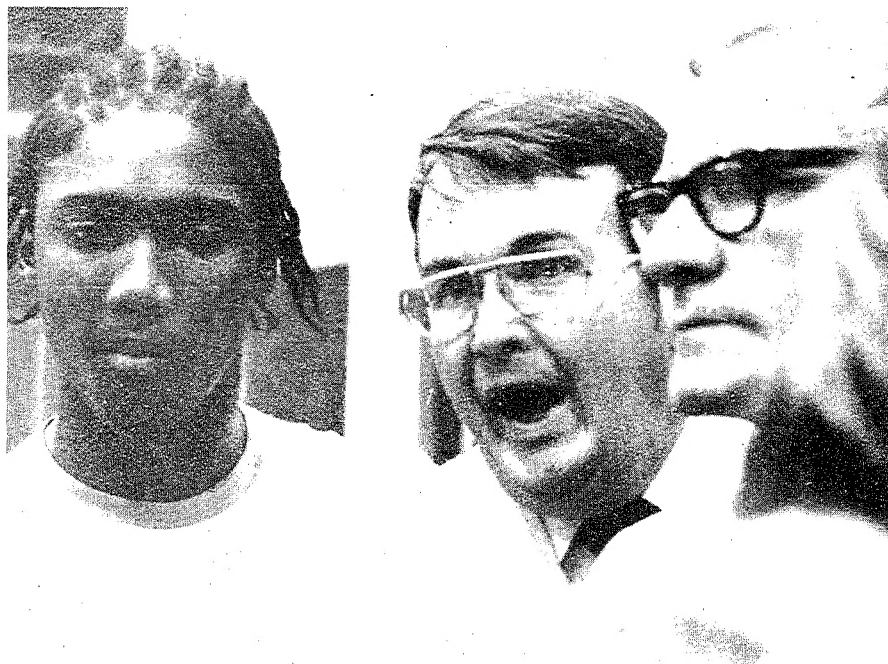
MANNY MARQUEZ

Eagle Scores For 53-Game Win Streak

This is the list of scores in the Hobbs Eagle winning streak that started on Dec. 7, 1965:

Eagles	Opp.
1. 90	Midland Lee 87
2. 98	Odessa Permian 76
3. 83	Midland High 69
4. 84	Abilene 79
5. 96	Abilene Cooper 76
6. 94	Lovington 65
7. 90	Clinton, Okla. 63
8. 104	Abilene Cooper 69
9. 70	Odessa 63
10. 76	Goddard 64
11. 105	Alamogordo 46
12. 99	Clovis 78
13. 95	Carlsbad 91
14. 92	Roswell 59
15. 88	Las Cruces 67
16. 94	Artesia 60
17. 103	Roswell 67
18. 119	Alamogordo 60
19. 81	Las Cruces 73
20. 114	Carlsbad 82
21. 100	Artesia 70
22. 88	Goddard 82
23. 84	Clovis 76
24. *85	Clovis 74
25. *98	Goddard 78
26. **93	Santa Fe 73
27. **88	Carlsbad 86
28. **89	Highland 77
29. 129	EP Burgess 70
30. 80	EP Austin 45
31. 109	Midland Lee 76
32. 99	Big Spring 74
33. 100	Aq. Valley 83
34. 102	Midland 74
35. 115	Artesia 57
36. 80	Lovington 80
37. 94	Plainview 59
38. 100	Midland 75
39. 110	Pampa 98
40. 103	Goddard 72
41. 98	Artesia 71
42. 92	Clovis 90
43. 50	Mayfield 42
44. 78	Roswell 69
45. 75	Mayfield 43
46. 100	Carlsbad 78
47. 137	Clovis 97
48. 76	Alamogordo 69
49. 86	Roswell 73
50. 84	Carlsbad 80
51. 93	Alamogordo 65
52. *92	Goddard 78
53. *79	Clovis 76

*District 2AA Tournament
**State Tournament.



Sophomore Mike Smith and coaches James Richards and Ralph Tasker analyze game situation during 106-81 win over Phoenix St. Mary's, Arizona, during 1977 Hobbs Holiday Tournament. (Hobbs News Sun photo)

sive talent and quite possibly the best front line in the United States."

The Texans won, 114-106, sending Hobbs home with three straight losses to Texas schools for the first time in history: 93-90 to Midland Lee in two overtimes, 82-80 to Houston Westchester on a 40-foot desperation shot at the buzzer, and that thrilling loss to Wheatley, a team which averaged 108.7 points during an amazing 41-1 season.

"Hobbs will never play the competition week-after-week that your good schools in Los Angeles or New York play," adds one Southwest Conference coach. "But who does? It's a numbers game. There are more people in Los Angeles than we have in this whole part of West Texas and New Mexico."

"You find good players and good teams everywhere," claims Texas Tech assistant Robert Evans, a former Eagle himself under Tasker. "We saw just about every good high school player in the country last year, and we didn't see many who were better than Jeffrey Taylor."

With Taylor in the Eagles lineup last year, Hobbs was 16-0 at midseason, ranked No. 10 in the U.S.A. by *Basketball Weekly*, and were averaging 108 points per game — a whopping 158 in district play.

Now an assistant at Illinois, Tony Yates (the former star for NCAA champion University of Cincinnati) called Hobbs "the best coached high school

basketball team I've ever seen." What Yates saw was a 140-69 win over Carlsbad, a game in which Jeff Taylor broke a bone in his leg doing a slam dunk in the third quarter. If a hard-luck award was given, it would have had to go to the Eagles of 1977-78.

Within one short week they lost three key players for the season, won 10 of their remaining 13 games, lost back-to-back thrillers (104-103, 110-100) to Clovis in Hobbs, then fell to Albuquerque

"I have seen tournaments in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, and I have never seen anything like it before...Hobbs showed some of the finest sportsmanship I have ever seen."

que High again, 92-84 in the "Pit" before 13,500 fans — a New Mexico state tournament attendance record for a quarter-final game.

In the big school finals, Santa Fe beat Albuquerque 50-47 before 18,000 fans, 16,703 of which were paid. Not bad for a state with a total population of only one million people.

"I'll never forget my first trip to Hobbs," says Jerry Pettibone, former football recruiting coordinator at the University of Oklahoma. "When you're in the football recruiting business you get to see a lot of high

(continued on page 38)

HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

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10	Mac Wright	5-7	jr.
12	Zac Sharp	5-9	soph.
14	David Bridgforth	6-0	jr.
20	Mike Smith	6-1	jr.
22	Wallace Williams	5-9	jr.
24	Jay Willman	6-2	jr.
30	Tony Mackey	5-10	sr.
32	Deryl Haynes	5-9	jr.
34	Johnny Taylor	5-11	jr.
40	James Dabney	6-1	jr.
42	Jeff Hannah	6-4	sr.
44	Vince Taylor	6-4	soph.
50	Steve Welch	6-1	jr.
52	Larron Fields	6-1	jr.

VARSITY COACHES: Ralph Tasker, James Richards

NICKNAME: Eagles

SCHOOL COLORS: Black & Gold

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 7 (1956, 1957, 1958, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970)



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HEAD COACH: Clester Harrington
ASSISTANTS: J. D. Johnson, Brent Cummins
NICKNAME: Bulldogs
SCHOOL COLORS: Navy Blue & White
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: none

10	Richard Fields	5-8	soph.
12	Clarence Blunt	6-2	jr.
14	Mike Maahs	5-9	sr.
15	David Walker	6-0	sr.
20	Alan Ailles	6-0	jr.
21	Todd Tims	5-10	soph.
23	Gary Springgs	6-0	jr.
24	Kevin McGee	6-4	jr.
25	Kelly Risinger	6-1	jr.
33	Mike Salone	6-2	sr.
42	David Carter	6-1	soph.
43	Leander Thacker	6-5	sr.
44	Mark Foster	6-5	jr.
55	Dane Neilson	6-3	jr.

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44	Frankie Comiskey	6-3	sr.
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10	Ray Gabaldon	5-11	jr.
42	Andrew Lopez	6-3	soph.
50	David Lopez	6-3	jr.
14	Mark Montoya	6-1	sr.
30	Doug Patterson	6-2	jr.
20	Donny Sanchez	5-10	soph.
22	Ben Santistevan	5-10	jr.
40	John Stuhlmann	6-0	soph.
32	Luke Torrez	5-11	soph.
12	Paul Yannoni	5-11	jr.

HEAD COACH: Phil Ewing
ASSISTANT: Roger Cordova
NICKNAME: Vikings
SCHOOL COLORS: Maroon & White
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1 (1965)

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HEAD COACH: Joe Partain
 ASSISTANT: Ron Kleinman
 NICKNAME: Cougars
 SCHOOL COLORS: Blue & Gold
 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1 (1961)

12	Dale Garcia	5-6	sr.
20	Stuart Goodman	5-11	jr.
22	Joe Lassuy	5-8	sr.
24	Randy Allen	5-10	sr.
30	Donnie Haygood	6-0	sr.
32	Spencer Martinez	6-3	sr.
34	David Partain	6-1	soph.
40	Eddie Martinez	6-1	soph.
42	Jim Gilder	6-2	sr.
44	Randy Robbins	6-1	jr.
54	Ken Hoat	6-6	sr.

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11	Chad Campbell	5-8	sr.
12	Tracy Skousen	5-10	soph.
14	Arleigh Balizado	5-6	jr.
15	Steve Castro	5-9	soph.
21	Jim Newman	6-2	jr.
23	Chris Ellsworth	6-4	jr.
32	Jeff Todd	6-1	jr.
34	Louie Sheridan	5-9	jr.
35	Keith McGee	5-11	jr.
41	Rex Blakely	6-0	jr.
43	Brent Uchytill	6-2	sr.
44	Robby Leatham	6-1	sr.
53	Scott Gehrke	6-2	sr.
54	Bob Hutchinson	6-6	jr.

HEAD COACH: Tom MacDougal
ASSISTANTS: Chuck Skinner, Art Solis, William Betz, David Betz
NICKNAME: Jackrabbits
SCHOOL COLORS: Purple & Gold
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 11 (1917, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1933, 1936, 1946, 1950, 1951)

Mesa Tribune

A COX NEWSPAPER
CHARLES A. WAHLHEIM
Publisher

GOOD LUCK 'RABBITS
IN THE HOBBS HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

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HEAD COACH: Alvis Glidewell
ASSISTANTS: Robert Bransford, Bill Rivas
NICKNAME: Rockets
SCHOOL COLORS: Red & Blue
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: none

Wt. Rd.				
12	11	Vic Allen	6-0	jr.
14	15	Link Windham	6-2	sr.
20	21	Craig Beshears	6-1	jr.
22	23	Gary Crouse	5-10	sr.
24	25	Erich Marusich	5-10	sr.
30	31	Tony Harvey	5-11	jr.
32	33	Raul Minjarez	6-2	sr.
40	41	Brian Mansour	6-4	jr.
42	43	Larry Henderson	6-2	jr.
44	45	John Froetschel	6-2	sr.
50	51	Steve Plummer	6-2	sr.
54	55	Tony Waters	6-4	jr.

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15	Art McMillan	5-11	sr.
13	Scotty Robinson	5-11	sr.
55	Issac Hernandez	6-4	jr.
45	Jackie Heath	6-4	jr.
31	David Collins	6-4	jr.
41	Beto Lopez	6-2	jr.
43	Victor Sida	5-9	sr.

HEAD COACH Charles Quisenberry
 ASSISTANT Bob Haack
 NICKNAME Highlanders
 SCHOOL COLORS Red & White

21	Willie Pelegreen	6-0	jr.
11	Ricky Castillo	5-9	jr.
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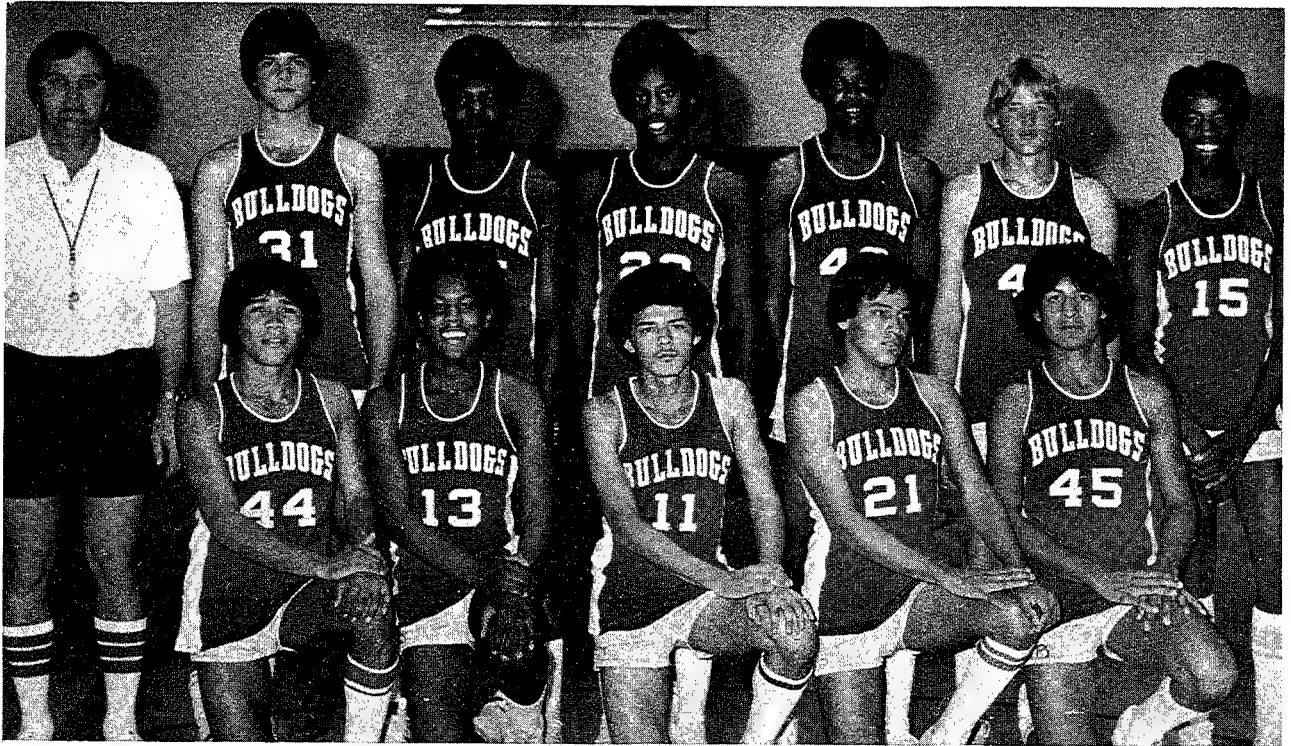
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HEAD COACH: Richard O'Hara
ASSISTANTS: Dale Smith, Frank Muir
NICKNAME: Bulldogs
SCHOOL COLORS: Blue & White
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: none

H	A		
14	15	Jimmy Ray	6-0 sr.
30	31	Keith Jordan	6-3 jr.
12	13	Kim Taylor	5-10 jr.
24	25	Gilbert Vera	6-0 jr.
40	41	Lowell Palser	5-11 jr.
42	43	Gary Parr	6-2 jr.
22	23	Earnest Mosley	6-0 jr.
45	45	Eddie Hart	6-0 jr.
20	21	Joaquin Sierra	5-9 jr.
44	44	Robert Vera	5-10 jr.
10	11	Henery Gonzales	5-8 jr.



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YEAR-BY-YEAR WITH THE HOBBS EAGLES

	Coch	Year
26-3	Ralph Tasker	1978
23-5	Ralph Tasker	1977
22-5	Ralph Tasker	1976
23-4	Ralph Tasker	1975
21-5	Ralph Tasker	1974
22-5	Ralph Tasker	1973
20-7	Ralph Tasker	1972
25-3	Ralph Tasker	1971
26-1	Ralph Tasker	1970
25-2	Ralph Tasker	1969
27-1	Ralph Tasker	1968
25-1	Ralph Tasker	1967
28-0	Ralph Tasker	1966
19-10	Ralph Tasker	1965
26-2	Ralph Tasker	1964
27-1	Ralph Tasker	1963
25-4	Ralph Tasker	1962
20-8	Ralph Tasker	1961
24-4	Ralph Tasker	1960
19-7	Ralph Tasker	1959
20-11	Ralph Tasker	1958
27-2	Ralph Tasker	1957
30-3	Ralph Tasker	1956
18-11	Ralph Tasker	1955
25-4	Ralph Tasker	1954
13-13	Ralph Tasker	1953
9-17	Ralph Tasker	1952
27-6	Ralph Tasker	1951
13-17	Ralph Tasker	1950
13-13	Glen Ball	1949
9-17	Jim Coulter	1948
5-14	Nelson Tydings	1947
13-6	Herb West	1946
9-6	Herb West	1945
14-8	Herb West	1944
10-5	Herb West	1943
23-3	Herb West	1942
20-5	Herb West	1941
24-9	Chuck Finley	1940
28-5	Chuck Finley	1939
22-5	"Doc" Ledbetter	1938
17-5	Nelson Tydings	1937
14-8	T.C. Bird	1936
(unk.)	Herb West	1935
(unk.)	Herb West	1934
(unk.)	Herb West	1933
(unk.)	Herb West	1932
(unk.)	Herb West	1931



He wants to coach forever, but when he does retire, Coach Ralph Tasker may become the winningest high school coach in American high school basketball. No schoolboy coach in the country has put five players on the court for over 20 years who have performed like the Hobbs Eagles. Winning 900 games is now within his reach, as the 58-year old mentor has produced a 712-195 won-loss record at three different schools in Ohio and New Mexico.

YEAR-BY-YEAR

HOBBS HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

1977	Hobbs 107, East Phoenix, Arizona 91
1976	Hobbs 88, El Paso Irvin, Texas 77
1975	El Paso Eastwood, Tx. 85, Hobbs 67
1974	Hobbs 91, El Paso Eastwood, Texas 76
1973	Hobbs 73, El Paso Eastwood, Texas 71
1972	Hobbs 81, Gallup 61
1971	Plainview, Texas 88, Hobbs 87
1970	Hobbs 85, Plainview, Texas 84
1969	Hobbs 102, El Paso Burgess, Tx. 62
1968	Odessa, Texas 88, Hobbs 84
1967	Hobbs 82, Pampa, Texas 78
1966	Hobbs 110, Pampa, Texas 98
1965	Hobbs 70, Odessa, Texas 63
1964	Lubbock Monterey, Tx. 47, Plainview, Tx. 46
1963	Hobbs 99, Odessa, Texas 67
1962	Hobbs 79, Odessa, Texas 60
1961	Hobbs 55, Las Cruces 53
1960	Hobbs 62, Las Cruces 50
1959	Hobbs 56, Clovis 53
1958	Hobbs 78, Andrews, Texas 66

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ALL-TIME NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL RECORDS

TEAM

MOST STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 17 Kansas City Wyandotte, KS (between 1923 and 1976)
- 16 Macon Lanier, Georgia (between 1922 and 1951)
- 16 Phoenix Union, Arizona (between 1916 and 1968)
- 16 Houston Wheatley, Texas (between 1948 and 1978)

MOST CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 7 Wheeling Central, West Virginia (1941-47)
- 7 Providence Central, Rhode Island (1969-75)

LONGEST WIN STREAKS

- 159 Passaic, New Jersey (1919-25)
- 104 Belleville Union Academy, New York (1966-71)
- 88 Beaufort, North Carolina (1960-62)
- 82 Houston Kashmere, Texas (1974-75)
- 80 Paullina, Iowa (1967-70)

LONGEST LOSING STREAKS

- 138 Friendsville Academy, Tennessee (1967-73)
- 96 Epping, North Dakota (1965-68)
- 92 Rewey, Wisconsin (1943-49)
- 90 Herrick, Illinois (1965-69)
- 88 Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania (1972-76)

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

- 211 DeQuincy Grand Avenue, La. vs. Cameron Audrey Memorial, La. 29, 1964
- 198 Loudon, Tenn. vs. McMinnville, Tenn. 57, 1957
- 198 Lake Charles Boston, La. vs. Creole South Cameron, La. 34, 1976
- 193 Pompano Beach Blanche Ely, Fla. vs. Delray Beach Carver, Fla. 58, 1965

MOST POINTS SCORED (TWO TEAMS)

- 278 Chelsea Vocat., N.Y. 153 vs. Manhattan Vocat., N.Y. 125, 1971
- 274 Hobbs, N.M. 170 vs. Carlsbad, N.M. 104, 1970
- 274 Houston Wheatley, Tx. 158 vs. Washington, La. 116, 1972
- 269 Whitewood, Va. 155 vs. Rocky Gap, Va. 114, 1970

HIGHEST SCORING AVERAGE

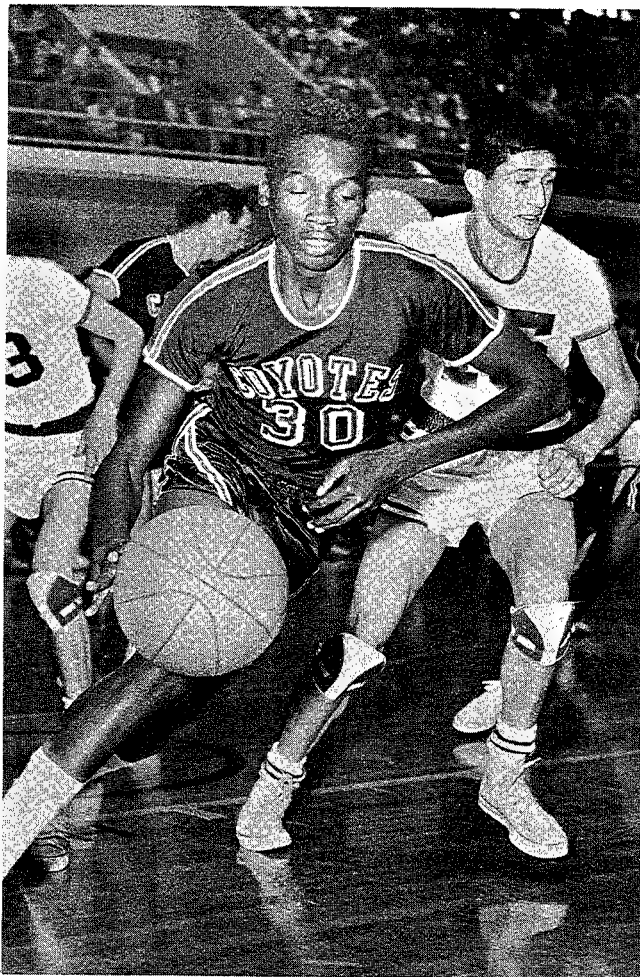
- 114.6 Hobbs, New Mexico, 1969-70 (26-1)
- 108.7 Houston Wheatley, Texas, 1972-73 (41-1)
- 106.1 Houston Wheatley, Texas, 1971-72 (39-3)
- 105.7 Hobbs, New Mexico, 1970-71 (25-3)
- 104.0 Bridgeport Central, Connecticut, 1970-71
- 103.1 Hobbs, New Mexico, 1977-78 (26-3)
- 101.0 Wampum, Pennsylvania, 1954-55 (31-0)
- 100.5 Hobbs, New Mexico, 1972-73 (22-5)
- 100.0 Whiteville Central, N.C., 1966-67 (32-0)
- 99.2 Hobbs, New Mexico, 1963-64 (26-2)

MOST OVERTIMES (GAME)

- 13 Marners Boone Trail, N.C. 56 vs. Angier, N.C. 54, 1964
- 10 Wenona, Ill. 28 vs. Toluca, Ill. 23, 1930
- 10 Manchester, Ga. 105 vs. Fayette County, Ga. 103, 1971
- 9 Swayzee, Indiana 65 vs. Liberty Center, Ind. 61, 1964
- 9 Dwight, Ill. 76 vs. Reddick, Ill. 72, 1965

MOST WINS (SEASON)

- 68 Plainview, Louisiana, 1958-59
- 56 Belmont, Louisiana, 1956-57
- 56 Noble Ebarb, Louisiana, 1969-70

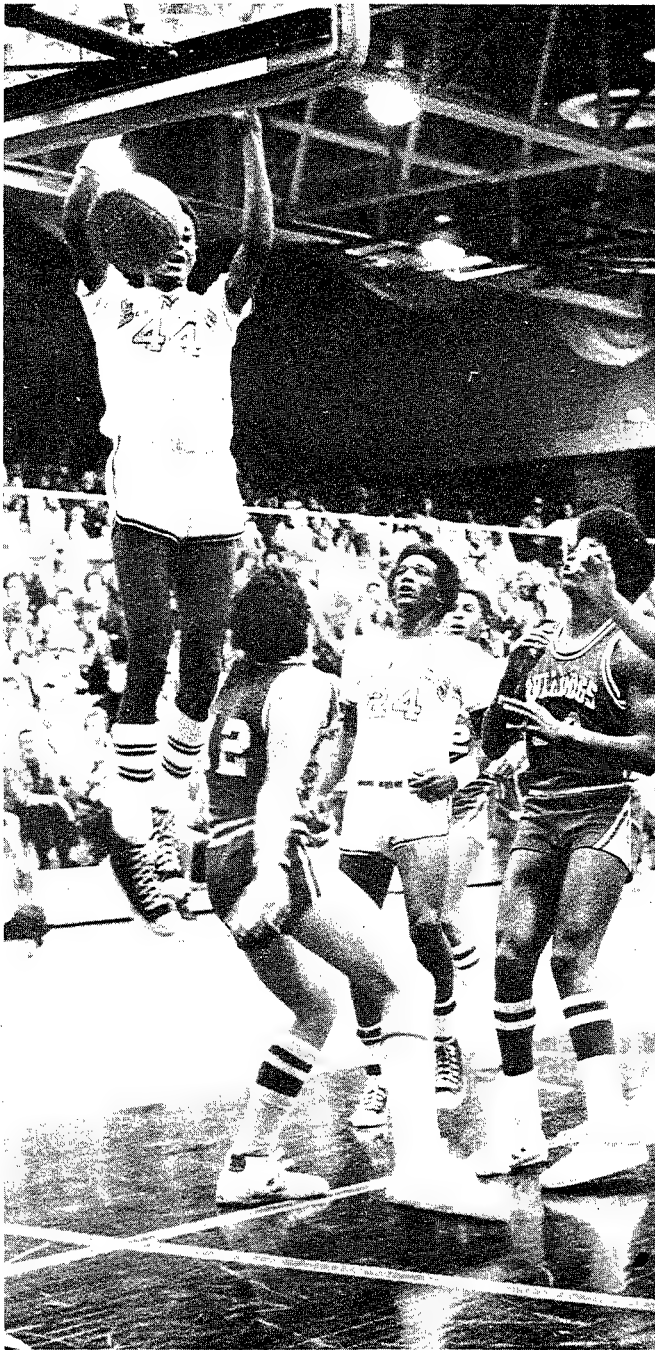


DYNASTY — With athletes like Albert Nealey in the lineup, mighty Phoenix Union dominated basketball in the Grand Canyon State, winning 16 state championships between 1916 and 1968. (Arizona Republic photo)

- 53 Lacassine, Louisiana, 1963-64
- 52 Snook, Texas, 1965-66
- 52 Florien, Louisiana, 1974-75
- 50 Campti, Louisiana, 1975-76

MOST POINTS SCORED (LOSING GAME)

- 125 Manhattan Vocat., N.Y. vs. Chelsea Vocat., N.Y. 153, 1971
- 121 Hobbs, N.M. vs. Carlsbad, N.M. 123, 1972
- 116 Washington, vs. Houston Wheatley, Tx. 158, 1972
- 116 Los Angeles, Ca. vs. Los Angeles Jefferson, Ca. 124, 1975



NATIONAL POWER — Jeff Taylor is about to come down to earth after slamming a shot through the rim in 1977 Hobbs-Midland, Texas game at Ralph Tasker Arena. Taylor and Eagles zipped to a 103-59 win before packed home crowd which has seen Hobbs average over 100 points per game for more than a decade. (Jim Rawls photo)

All-time national high school records compiled by Doug Huff, Associate Sports Editor, The Intelligencer, Wheeling, West Virginia.

MOST PERSONAL FOULS (GAME)

- 59 Weston, West Va. 55 vs. Grafton, West Va. 61, 1954
51 Grafton, West Va. 61 vs. Weston, West Va. 55, 1954

MOST PERSONAL FOULS (TWO TEAMS)

- 110 .. Weston, West Va. (59) vs. Grafton, West Va. (51), 1954

MOST FREE THROWS (GAME)

- 70 Powell County, Ky. vs. Louisville Shawnee, Ky., 1972 (70-91)

LARGEST WINNING MARGIN

- 182 DeQuincy Grand Avenue, La., 211, Cameron Audrey Memorial, La., 29, 1964
164 Lake Charles Boston, La., 198, Creole South Cameron, La., 34, 1976

INDIVIDUAL

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

- 135 Danny Heater, Burnsville, West Virginia, 1960
120 Dick Bogenrife, Sedalia Midway, Ohio, 1953
114 Pete Cimino, Bristol, Pennsylvania, 1960
108 Ken Robinson, Cassatt Midway, S.C., 1961
102 Benny Fuller, Little Rock School for Deaf, Ark., 1971
98 Chuck Kinney, Peru Central, New York, 1955
98 Benny Fuller, Little Rock School for Deaf, Ark., 1970
97 Walter Garrett, Birmingham West End, Alabama, 1963
90 Tim Saylor, Wabash White Institute, Indiana, 1971
90 Billy Miller, Nancy, Kentucky, 1976

MOST POINTS SCORED (SEASON)

- 3173 Greg Procell, Noble Ebarb, La., 1969-70 (68 games)

MOST POINTS SCORED (CAREER)

- 6702 Greg Procell, Noble Ebarb, La., 1966-70 (180 games)

AVERAGE POINTS SCORED (SEASON)

- 50.8 .. Benny Fuller, Little Rock School for Deaf, Ark., 1970-71
47.7 Tom McMillen, Mansfield, Pennsylvania, 1969-70
46.7 Greg Procell, Noble Ebarb, Louisiana, 1969-70
44.9 .. Benny Fuller, Little Rock School for Deaf, Ark., 1969-70
43.4 Greg Goorjian, Crescenta Valley, CA., 1977-78
42.6 Allan Hornyak, Bellaire St. John's, Ohio, 1967-68
42.0 Mickey Crowe, St. Nazianz JFK Prep, Wis., 1974-75
41.2 Brian Heublein, Pasadena Poly, California, 1969-70
40.7 Mike Gminski, Monroe Masuk, Connecticut, 1975-76
40.3 Calvin Murphy, Norwalk, Connecticut, 1965-66

MOST FIELD GOALS MADE (GAME)

- 53 Danny Heater, Burnsville, West Virginia, 1960 (53-70)
48 Ken Robinson, Cassatt Midway, S.C., 1961 (48-54)
44 Pete Cimino, Bristol, Pennsylvania, 1960 (44-79)
40 Allan Hornyak, Bellaire St. John's, Ohio, 1969
40 Tim Saylor, Wabash White Institute, Ind., 1971 (40-52)

MOST FREE THROWS MADE (GAME)

- 31 Randy Patti, Kansas City Rosedale, Kansas, 1971
29 Danny Heater, Burnsville, West Virginia, 1960
26 Pete Cimino, Bristol, Pennsylvania, 1960

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)

- 55 Mark Garbacz, Oil City Venango Christian, Pa., 1970
51 Dwight Jones, Houston Wheatley, Texas, 1969
48 Mark Robinson, Whitewood, Virginia, 1970
48 Carl Russell, McNary, Arizona, 1973

MOST CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS MADE

- 67 Denton Jones, Knoxville Central, Tenn., 1970
63 Marvin Selvy, Corbin, Kentucky, 1965
51 Doug Wininger, Indianapolis Warren Central, Ind., 1964

MOST POINTS SCORED (LOSING GAME)

- 78 Rick Morrill, Hudson Pembroke Academy, N.H., 1965
72 Mickey Miller, Hatley, Mississippi, 1970
70 Rick Morrill, Hudson Pembroke Academy, N.H., 1965
70 Greg Starrick, Marion, Illinois, 1967

TEAM RECORDS

MOST POINTS (GAME)

176 vs Roswell (49), 1978
 170 vs Carlsbad (104), 1970
 143 vs Lubbock Dunbar (84), 1970
 140 vs Carlsbad (69), 1978
 139 vs Midland Lee (83), 1970
 139 vs Espanola (50), 1970
 137 vs Lovington (92), 1973
 137 vs Clovis (97), 1967
 135 vs Roswell (92), 1971
 135 vs Carlsbad (108), 1970
 135 vs Carlsbad (80), 1969
 133 vs Abilene, Texas (89), 1970
 133 vs Midland Lee (102), 1969
 132 vs Carlsbad (69), 1970
 131 vs Clovis (92), 1973
 130 vs Clovis (94), 1973
 129 vs Espanola (66), 1969
 129 vs El Paso Burges (70), 1966
 129 vs Carlsbad (80), 1964
 129 vs Midland Lee (67), 1978
 128 vs Alamogordo (90), 1973
 128 vs Abilene, Texas (100), 1977
 127 vs Roswell (73), 1975
 126 vs Lovington (66), 1970
 126 vs Roswell Goddard (72), 1977
 126 vs Roswell (86), 1970
 125 vs Clovis (94), 1974
 125 vs El Paso Jefferson (67), 1969
 124 vs Lovington (80), 1971
 124 vs Clovis (58), 1970
 124 vs Alamogordo (86), 1970
 124 vs Carlsbad (79), 1964
 124 vs Monahans, Texas (38), 1955
 123 vs Albuquerque (87), 1970
 123 vs Carlsbad (81), 1978
 121 vs Carlsbad (123), 1972 (lost)
 121 vs Clovis (93), 1972
 121 vs Alamogordo (79), 1972
 121 vs Artesia (72), 1969
 121 vs Clovis (73), 1964
 120 vs El Paso Riverside (67), 1972
 120 vs Roswell (69), 1973
 120 vs Alamogordo (84), 1971

MOST POINTS (JUNIOR VARSITY)

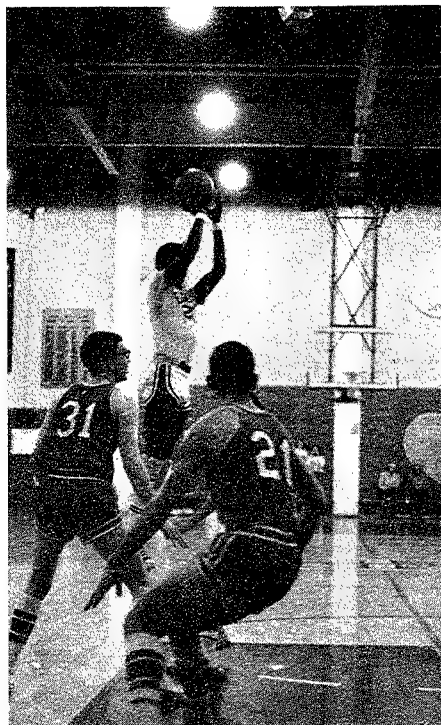
141 vs Odessa, Texas (48), 1972
 141 vs Carlsbad (107), 1978

MOST POINTS (HALF)

101 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 91 vs Roswell, 1978
 85 vs Roswell, 1978
 77 vs Clovis, 1967
 77 vs Abilene, Texas, 1970
 76 vs Carlsbad, 1978
 76 vs Roswell, 1971
 75 vs Lubbock Dunbar, 1970
 75 vs Midland Lee, 1970
 74 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 73 vs Clovis, 1964
 73 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 73 vs Midland Lee, 1977
 72 vs El Paso Jefferson, 1969
 72 vs Alamogordo, 1970
 72 vs Lovington, 1973
 72 vs Abilene, 1977
 71 vs Espanola, 1970
 70 vs Lovington, 1970
 70 vs Roswell, 1970

MOST POINTS (QUARTER)

51 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 50 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 48 vs Clovis, 1970



Robert Brooks hits a 20-foot jumper during 139-83 win over Midland Lee in 1970, a year in which the Eagles averaged 114.6 points per game. (Hobbs News Sun photo)

48 vs Clovis, 1971
 48 vs Roswell, 1978
 45 vs Artesia, 1966
 45 vs Carlsbad, 1970
 44 vs El Paso Burges, 1966
 44 vs Clovis, 1967
 44 vs Abilene, Texas, 1977
 43 vs Espanola, 1970
 43 vs Roswell, 1978
 42 vs Carlsbad, 1972
 42 vs Midland Lee, 1969
 42 vs Carlsbad, 1978
 41 vs Lovington, 1963
 41 vs Carlsbad, 1975
 41 vs Midland Lee, 1970
 41 vs Abilene, 1970
 41 vs Roswell Goddard, 1971

MOST POINTS (TWO TEAMS)

274 Hobbs 170, Carlsbad 104, 1970
 244 Carlsbad 123, Hobbs 121, 1972 (lost)
 243 Hobbs 135, Carlsbad 108, 1970
 235 Hobbs 133, Midland Lee 102, 1969
 234 Hobbs 137, Clovis 97, 1967
 229 Hobbs 137, Lovington 92, 1973
 228 Hobbs 128, Abilene, Texas 100, 1977
 227 Hobbs 135, Roswell 92, 1971
 227 Hobbs 143, Lubbock Dunbar 84, 1970
 225 Hobbs 176, Roswell 49, 1977
 224 Hobbs 130, Clovis 94, 1973
 223 Hobbs 125, Alamogordo 98, 1965
 223 Hobbs 114, Carlsbad 109, 1971
 223 Hobbs 114, Clovis 109, 1972
 223 Hobbs 131, Clovis 92, 1973

LARGEST WINNING MARGIN

127 Hobbs 176, Roswell 49, 1978
 89 Hobbs 139, Espanola 50, 1970
 86 Hobbs 124, Monahans, Texas 38, 1955
 80 Hobbs 118, Roswell 38, 1978
 71 Hobbs 140, Carlsbad 69, 1978
 70 Hobbs 90, New Mexico Military 20, 1956
 66 Hobbs 119, Artesia 53, 1964
 66 Hobbs 124, Clovis 58, 1970
 66 Hobbs 170, Carlsbad 104, 1970
 63 Hobbs 132, Carlsbad 69, 1970
 63 Hobbs 129, Espanola 66, 1969
 63 Hobbs 99, Carlsbad 36, 1977
 62 Hobbs 129, Midland Lee 67, 1977
 61 Hobbs 114, Albuquerque Valley 53, 1963
 60 Hobbs 126, Lovington 66, 1970

MOST POINTS (LOSING GAME)

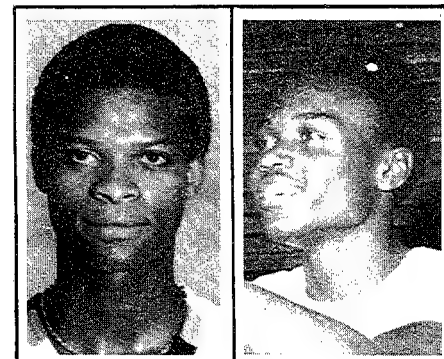
121 vs Carlsbad (123), 1972
 106 vs Carlsbad (110), 1972
 106 vs Houston Wheatley (114), 1972
 103 vs Clovis (104), 1978
 100 vs Clovis (110), 1978 (ot)
 96 vs Las Cruces (110), 1976
 96 vs Las Cruces (101), 1975
 93 vs Roswell (100), 1965
 91 vs Espanola (102), 1965

WORST DEFEATS

46 Midland, Texas 98, Hobbs 52, 1971
 40 Abilene, Texas 124, Hobbs 84, 1976
 37 Carlsbad 55, Hobbs 18, 1934
 27 Eunice 39, Hobbs 12, 1947
 27 Eunice 54, Hobbs 27, 1949

MOST POINTS SCORED (BY OPPONENTS)

124 by Abilene, Texas vs 84, 1976
 123 by Carlsbad vs 121, 1972
 114 by Houston Wheatley vs 106, 1972
 110 by Carlsbad vs 106, 1971
 110 by Las Cruces vs 96, 1976
 110 by Clovis vs 100, 1978 (ot)
 109 by Carlsbad vs 114, 1971
 109 by Clovis vs 114, 1972
 108 by Carlsbad vs 135, 1970
 107 by El Paso Andress vs 115, 1973
 106 by Carlsbad vs 108, 1971
 104 by Carlsbad vs 170, 1970
 104 by Clovis vs 103, 1978
 103 by Albuquerque vs 82, 1972
 102 by Espanola vs 91, 1965
 102 by Midland Lee vs 133, 1969
 101 by El Paso Bel Air vs 110, 1971
 101 by Las Cruces vs 96, 1975



With Donnie Thompson (left) and Garland Taylor in the lineup, Hobbs averaged 96.3 points and finished 23-4 during 1975 campaign.



During that historic 170-104 win over Carlsbad in 1970, Larry Robinson (left) scored 49 points and teammate Larry Williams (right) scored 32 as Eagles scored 101 in the second half.

MOST 100-POINT GAMES (SEASON)

20	1970 (26-1)
16	1971 (25-3)
16	1978 (26-3)
13	1973 (22-5)
12	1964 (26-2)
11	1972 (20-7)
10	1967 (25-1)
10	1969 (25-2)

CONSECUTIVE 100-POINT GAMES

14	1969-70
5	1964
5	1978
4	1971
4	1972

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS

53	1965-67
30	1955-57
29	1967-68
27	1962-63
25	1969-70
24	1977-78
22	1956-57
22	1963-64
20	1959-60

CONSECUTIVE WINS (JVs)

51	1966-68
49	1960-62

CONSECUTIVE WINS (HOME)

49	1965-68
38	1955-57
35	1969-71
32	1963-64

MOST CONSECUTIVE LOSSES

6	1947
5	1936
5	1946-47
5	1948
5	1951-52
4	1947
4	1948
4	1954

MOST VICTORIES (SEASON)

30-3	1955-56
28-0	1965-66
28-5	1938-39
27-6	1950-51
27-2	1956-57
27-1	1962-63
27-1	1967-68
26-2	1963-64
26-1	1969-70
26-3	1977-78

MOST POINTS (SEASON)

3095	1970 (26-1)
2989	1978 (26-3)
2959	1972 (25-3)
2777	1964 (26-2)
2715	1973 (22-5)
2630	1972 (20-7)
2612	1969 (25-2)
2600	1966 (28-0)
2599	1975 (23-4)

MOST ASSISTS (SEASON)

1042	1978 (26-3)
781	1973 (22-5)
781	1977 (23-5)
750	1970 (26-1)

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME

114.6	1970 (26-1)
105.7	1971 (25-3)
103.1	1978 (26-3)
100.6	1973 (22-5)
99.2	1964 (26-2)
97.4	1972 (20-7)
96.7	1969 (25-2)
96.3	1975 (23-4)
94.2	1967 (25-1)
92.8	1966 (28-0)
91.5	1977 (23-5)

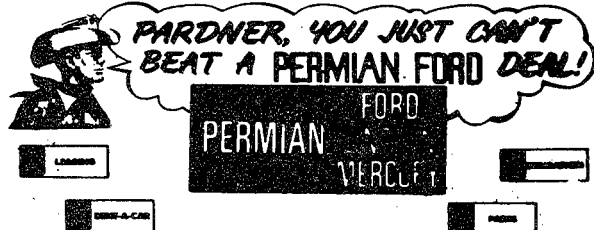
AVERAGE POINTS (JUNIOR VARSITY)

100.2	1973 (17-4)
95.1	1968 (24-0)

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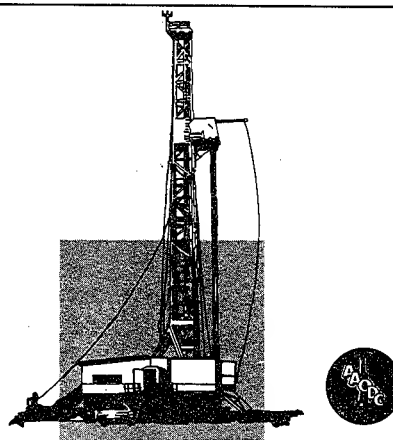
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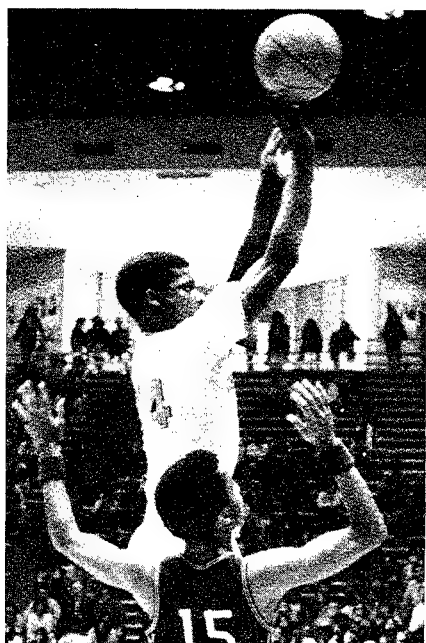


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Donnie Thompson, now at Pan American, hits a short jumper against Las Cruces during 101-96 semifinal loss in 1975 state AAAA tournament in Albuquerque.

MOST ASSISTS (GAME)*

66 vs Roswell, 1978
45 vs Clovis, 1973
43 vs Clovis, 1978
41 vs Midland Lee, 1975

FORCED TURNOVERS (GAME)*

75 vs Roswell, 1978
55 vs Carlsbad, 1977
51 vs Albuquerque Valley, 1978
50 vs East Phoenix, Arizona 1976
49 vs East Phoenix, Arizona 1977
47 vs Plainview, Texas, 1977
46 vs Los Alamos, 1972
43 vs Midland Lee, 1971
43 vs Albuquerque Valley, 1975
43 vs Midland Lee, 1974
43 vs Abilene, Texas, 1977
43 vs Midland Lee, 1977

FEWEST POINTS (BY OPPONENTS)

4 by Tatum vs Hobbs (42), 1942
6 by Jal vs Hobbs (28), 1938
8 by Eunice vs Hobbs (39), 1936
8 by Hope vs Hobbs (28), 1939
9 by Roswell vs Hobbs (16), 1939
10 by Jal vs Hobbs (23), 1938
11 by Clovis vs Hobbs (23), 1940
12 by Jal vs Hobbs (28), 1935
13 by Lovington vs Hobbs (23), 1938
13 by Monument vs Hobbs (19), 1945
14 by Oklahoma City Briton vs (31), 1938
14 by Hope vs Hobbs (29), 1939
14 by Hagerman vs Hobbs (41), 1939
14 by Eunice vs Hobbs (30), 1939

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)*

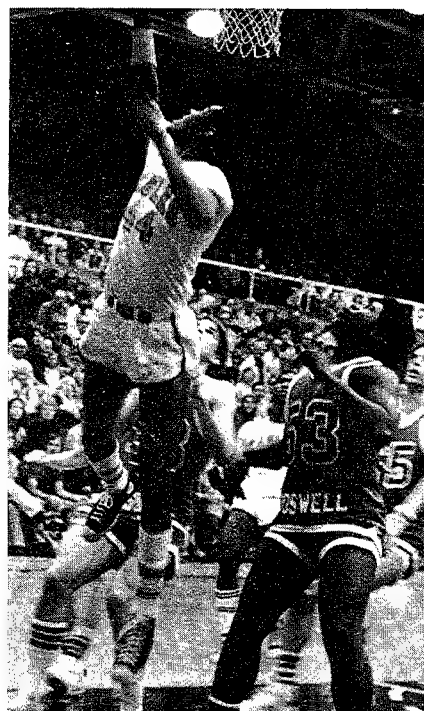
84 vs Roswell, 1978
76 vs Plainview, Texas, 1977
68 vs Roswell, 1978
67 vs El Paso Parkland, 1978
66 vs Carlsbad, 1976
66 vs Clovis, 1978
66 vs Carlsbad, 1978
63 vs Clovis, 1978
61 vs Clovis, 1967
61 vs Roswell Goddard, 1978

MOST REBOUNDS (SEASON)

1520	1978 (26-3)
1444	1957 (27-2)
1431	1958 (20-11)
1371	1970 (26-1)
1344	1977 (23-5)
1259	1971 (25-3)
1238	1973 (22-5)
1213	1960 (24-4)
1213	1972 (20-7)
1123	1975 (23-4)
1101	1976 (22-5)

AVERAGE REBOUNDS PER GAME

52.4	1978 (26-3)
50.8	1970 (26-1)
49.8	1957 (27-2)
48.0	1977 (23-5)
46.2	1958 (20-11)
45.8	1973 (22-5)
45.1	1972 (20-7)
45.0	1971 (25-3)



Jeff Taylor scored 40 points during this surprising 176-49 ambush of district rival Roswell in 1978. Eagles press forced 75 turnovers.

MOST FOULS (TWO TEAMS)

84 Hobbs (45), East Phoenix (39), 1976
78 Hobbs (38), Lovington (40), 1971
76 Hobbs (36), Albuquerque Valley (40), 1963
69 Hobbs (34), Lovington (35), 1973
63 Hobbs (36), Lovington (27), 1963

FREE THROW ATTEMPTS (GAME)

111 Hobbs vs East Phoenix, 1976
101 Hobbs vs Albuquerque Valley, 1963

FEWEST FOULS BY HOBBS (GAME)

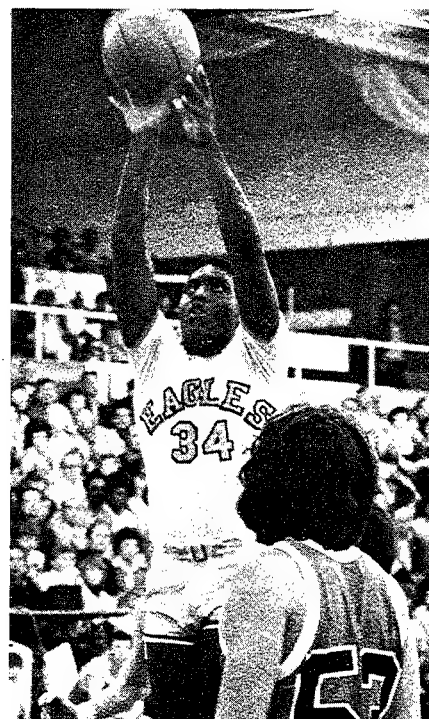
3 vs Lovington, 1937
3 vs Socorro, 1937
3 vs Eunice, 1941

MOST CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS

23 vs Abilene, Texas, 1977 (26 of 29)

OVERTIME GAMES

2 Lovington 35, Hobbs 33, 1949
2 Roswell 59, Hobbs 57, 1955
2 Santa Rosa, Tx. 65, Hobbs 63, 1955
2 Hobbs 63, Roswell 59, 1963
2 Midland Lee 93, Hobbs 90, 1972
2 Hobbs 103, Odessa Permian 100, 1975
1 Hobbs 39, Monument 34, 1941
1 Hobbs 33, Dexter 31, 1943
1 Hobbs 30, Lovington 27, 1944
1 Tatum 24, Hobbs 21, 1947
1 Hobbs 35, Albuquerque 33, 1950
1 Santa Fe 43, Hobbs 41, 1953
1 Hobbs 51, Dexter 49, 1954
1 Borger, Tx. 50, Hobbs 48, 1954
1 Los Alamos 65, Hobbs 63, 1955
1 Phillips, Tx. 86, Hobbs 85, 1956
1 Hobbs 57, Roswell 54, 1958
1 Roswell 65, Hobbs 60, 1959
1 Roswell 55, Hobbs 48, 1960
1 Hobbs 68, Clovis 57, 1960
1 Hobbs 46, Roswell 41, 1962
1 Roswell 65, Hobbs 64, 1963
1 Odessa Permian 63, Hobbs 61, 1964
1 Hobbs 71, El Paso Austin 70, 1968
1 Hobbs 73, El Paso Eastwood 71, 1973



Against Roswell last year, Hobbs grabbed 84 rebounds; above Steve Smith tips one back into the bucket during 176-49 win.

*Excludes 170-104 win over Carlsbad in 1970, and 143-84 win over Lubbock Dunbar.

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INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

MOST POINTS (SEASON)

777	Richard Robinson, 1973
734	Larry Robinson, 1970
598	Kent Williams, 1976
590	Kim Nash, 1956
579	Bill Bridges, 1957
576	Richard Robinson, 1972
556	Jeff Taylor, 1977
555	Joe Ussery, 1964
554	Harry Ward, 1969
539	Steve Smith, 1978
537	Gary Overbeck, 1964
513	Hardy Ray Murphy, 1966
511	Elmer Morganthaler, 1942
508	Donnie Jackson, 1972
507	Hollice Clay, 1960
501	Robert Franklin, 1974

MOST POINTS (CAREER)

1611	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
1358	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
1221	Hollice Clay, 1958-60
1188	Steve Smith, 1976-78
1140	Larry Robinson, 1969-70
989	Kim Nash, 1955-56
972	Harry Ward, 1968-69
959	Bill Bridges, 1956-57
941	Roy Lee Ford, 1964-66
920	Ray Clay, 1955-57
916	Joe Ussery, 1963-64

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME (SEASON)

28.7	Richard Robinson, 1973
27.2	Larry Robinson, 1970
25.4	Jeff Taylor, 1978
22.2	Kent Williams, 1976
21.3	Elmer Morganthaler, 1942
21.3	Richard Robinson, 1972
20.6	Eugene Smith, 1973
20.5	Harry Ward, 1969
20.0	Bill Bridges, 1957
19.9	Steve Smith, 1978
19.8	Jeff Taylor, 1977
19.3	Robert Franklin, 1974
18.9	Henry Taylor, 1974

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME (CAREER)

21.1	Larry Robinson, 1969-70
19.6	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
19.1	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
17.7	Harry Ward, 1968-69
16.4	Joe Ussery, 1963-64
16.0	Kim Nash, 1955-56
15.5	Bill Bridges, 1956-57

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

49	Larry Robinson vs Carlsbad, 1970
45	Kim Nash vs Carlsbad, 1956
45	Richard Robinson vs El Paso Riverside, 1972
43	Richard Robinson vs Alamogordo, 1973
43	Richard Robinson vs Roswell, 1973
43	Steve Smith vs Roswell, 1978
40	Larry Robinson vs Albuquerque, 1970
40	Richard Robinson vs Odessa Ector, 1972
40	Jeff Taylor vs Roswell, 1978
39	Larry Robinson vs Roswell Goddard, 1970
38	Elmer Morganthaler vs Roswell, 1942
37	Richard Hall vs Carlsbad, 1958
37	Richard Robinson vs El Paso Bel Air, 1971
36	Harry Ward vs Carlsbad, 1969
36	Richard Robinson vs Abilene Cooper, 1971
36	Richard Robinson vs Carlsbad, 1973

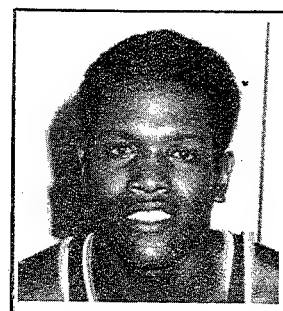
35	Elmer Morganthaler vs Corona, 1942
35	Larry Robinson vs Abilene, Texas, 1969
35	Larry Robinson vs Alamogordo, 1970
35	Richard Robinson vs Houston Wheatley, 1972
35	Kent Williams vs Carlsbad, 1976
35	Kent Williams vs Las Cruces, 1976
34	Elmer Morganthaler vs Lake Arthur, 1941
34	Joe Ussery vs Artesia, 1964
34	Harry Ward vs Albuquerque Highland, 1969
34	Larry Robinson vs Clovis, 1970
34	Larry Robinson vs Roswell, 1970
34	Richard Robinson vs Plainview, Texas, 1972
34	Steve Smith vs Midland Lee, Texas, 1977

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)

29	Bill Bridges vs Carlsbad, 1957
25	Bill Bridges vs Clovis, 1957
25	Bill Bridges vs Artesia, 1957
23	Bill Bridges vs Seminole, Texas, 1957
22	Bill Bridges vs Phillips, Texas, 1956
21	Bill Bridges vs Carlsbad, 1957
21	Bill Bridges vs Albuquerque Valley, 1957
21	Larry Robinson vs Abilene, Texas, 1969
21	Jeff Taylor vs Plainview, Texas, 1977
20	Winston Pickering vs Santa Fe St. Mikes, 1955
20	Bill Bridges vs Carlsbad, 1957
20	Harry Ward vs Albuquerque Highland, 1969
20	Larry Williams vs Carlsbad, 1970
20	Eugene Smith vs Midland Lee, Texas, 1972



Kent Williams



Eugene Smith



Wallace Williams



Henry Taylor



Donnie Jackson



Darryl Jones

MOST REBOUNDS (SEASON)

675	Bill Bridges, 1957
370	Bill Bridges, 1956
347	Larry Robinson, 1970
339	Jeff Taylor, 1977
326	Larry Williams, 1970
319	Eugene Smith, 1972
305	Eugene Smith, 1973
299	Joe Smith, 1958
284	Kent Williams, 1976
266	Richard Robinson, 1972
262	Henry Taylor, 1974
253	Hollice Clay, 1960

MOST REBOUNDS (CAREER)

1045	Bill Bridges, 1956-57
772	Jeff Taylor, 1976-78
670	Richard Robinson, 1971-73
624	Eugene Smith, 1972-73

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AVERAGE REBOUNDS PER GAME

- 23.3 Bill Bridges, 1957
- 12.9 Larry Robinson, 1970
- 12.6 Jeff Taylor, 1978
- 12.1 Larry Williams, 1970
- 12.1 Jeff Taylor, 1977
- 11.8 Eugene Smith, 1972
- 11.5 Hollice Clay, 1959
- 11.3 Eugene Smith, 1973
- 11.2 Bill Bridges, 1956
- 10.5 Kent Williams, 1976
- 10.1 Henry Taylor, 1974

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS (GAME)

- 5 Eugene Smith vs Las Cruces, 1973
- 5 Jeff Taylor vs Carlsbad, 1977

MOST ASSISTS (GAME)

- 13 Max Proctor vs Artesia, 1967
- 13 Mike Smith vs Carlsbad, 1978

MOST ASSISTS (SEASON)

- 182 Darryl Jones, 1976
- 177 Vic Singleton, 1978
- 165 Junior Hutchings, 1974
- 164 Wallace Williams, 1978
- 152 Jay Swinney, 1978
- 137 Timmy Tasker, 1970
- 133 Donnie Jackson, 1972
- 133 Royce Cooper, 1975
- 129 Garland Taylor, 1975
- 128 Charlie Hutchings, 1971
- 125 Max Proctor, 1967
- 124 Duane Henry, 1970

MOST ASSISTS (CAREER)

- 331 Vic Singleton, 1976-78
- 323 Darryl Jones, 1974-76
- 221 Donnie Jackson, 1971-72
- 218 Craig Willman, 1976-78

MOST CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS

- 46 Max Proctor, 1966-67
- 33 Max Proctor, 1967
- 31 Gary Overbeck, 1964

MOST FREE THROWS (GAME)

- 15 Kim Nash vs Carlsbad, 1956
- 14 Jeff Taylor vs Abilene, Texas, 1977
- 12 Gary Overbeck vs Roswell, 1964
- 12 Danny Watkins vs Highland, 1966

MOST FREE THROWS (SEASON)

- 123 Vic Singleton, 1978
- 116 Max Proctor, 1967
- 115 Henry Taylor, 1974
- 106 Rod Williams, 1977

MOST FREE THROWS (CAREER)

- 203 Vic Singleton, 1976-78

ALL-STATERS (1st TEAM)

- 1978 Jeff Taylor, 6-4, sr.
Steve Smith, 6-0, sr.
- 1977 Jeff Taylor, 6-3, jr.
- 1976 Kent Williams, 6-5, sr.
Jeff Taylor, 6-2, soph.
- 1975 Garland Taylor, 5-11½, sr.
Donnie Thompson, 6-3, sr.
- 1974 Robert Franklin, 5-11, sr.
- 1973 Richard Robinson, 6-3, sr.
Eugene Smith, 6-4, sr.
- 1972 Donnie Jackson, 5-11, sr.
- 1971 Charlie Hutchings, 5-10, sr.
Easy Pugh, 6-3, sr.
- 1970 Larry Robinson, 6-5, sr.
Larry Williams, 6-8, sr.
- 1969 Harry Ward, 6-4½, sr.
James Singleton, 5-6, sr.
- 1968 Harry Ward, 6-2, jr.
John Fenner, 6-3, sr.
Danny Whitlock, 6-0, sr.
- 1967 Max Proctor, 5-6, sr.
Wiggie Defreeze, 6-3, sr.
Jeff Stoltz, 6-1, sr.
- 1966 Roy Lee Ford, 6-0, sr.
Hardy Ray Murphy, 6-0, sr.
- 1965 Marvin Schmitt, 5-11, sr.
- 1964 Joe Ussery, 6-6, sr.
Gary Overbeck, 6-6, sr.
- 1963 Joe Ussery, 6-5, jr.
Clifford Powell, 6-0, sr.
- 1962 Terry Williams, 5-10, sr.
- 1960 Hollice Clay, 5-11, sr.
- 1958 Richard Hall, 6-1, sr.
- 1957 Bill Bridges, 6-4, sr.
Ray Clay, 5-8, sr.
- 1956 Kim Nash, 6-0, sr.
Floyd Donham, 5-10, sr.
- 1955 Kim Nash, 6-0, jr.
- 1954 Ertis Davis, 6-1, sr.
- 1951 Charles Nolan, 6-5, sr.
- 1946 Monte Roy, 5-9, sr.
- 1943 Buddy Hendrickson, 6-2½, sr.
- 1942 Elmer Morganthaler, 6-9, sr.
- 1939 Guy Crow
- 1938 Carl McAdoo

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Bill Bridges



Richard Robinson



Larry Robinson



Jeff Taylor



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No team wins all the time, and the Eagles are no exception. Good athletes usually rise to the occasion, and many outstanding athletes have competed against Hobbs during Tasker's basketball reign since 1949. Athletes from New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arizona have played in Ralph Tasker Arena, and many have played exceptionally well. Twenty players have scored 35 or more points against the Eagles, both in winning and losing causes. Over 30 players have scored more than 30 points.

In 1968, John Wilson of Odessa poured in 43 points during an 88-84 win over the Eagles in December. It was one of only two Eagle defeats suffered in 1968-69, and Wilson's output was the most productive ever recorded against a Ralph Tasker-coached team.

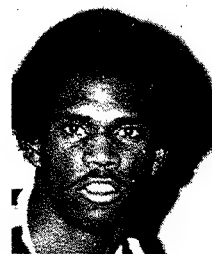
In 1976, Abilene's great David Little, now a freshman star at Texas Tech, scored a season-high 40 points during a 124-84 blitz by the Texans in Abilene. It was the second worst defeat ever handed a Hobbs basketball team.

Then there was Adam Beadle, the gifted 6-6 forward from state champion Las Cruces. In a wild 1975 state tournament game, Beadle ripped the nets for 39 points as his teammates shot 72.4% from the floor during a 101-96 barnburner, won by Cruces. Three famous athletes have scored 37 points against the Eagles: Mickey Wise of Abilene Cooper, Gary Brewster of Midland and Claude Giddens, the famed "Carlsbad Comet."

Yes, no team wins all the time, and the Hobbs Eagles are no exception. It's just that Hobbs wins more often than most teams, in spite of the fact that the "Hobbs game" is always the "game of the year" for every opponent. It brings out the best in many youngsters, including the following:

MOST POINTS (BY OPPONENTS)

- 43 John Wilson, Odessa, Texas, 1968
- 42 Dick Hunsaker, Clovis, 1972
- 41 Norm Cacey, Albuquerque Manzano, 1974
- 41 Dan Shelley, Clovis, 1967
- 40 Ronnie Peret, Plainview, Texas, 1964
- 40 David Little, Abilene, Texas, 1976
- 39 Adam Beadle, Las Cruces, 1975
- 39 Julio Gallardo, Ysleta, Texas, 1976
- 38 Gabriel Nava, El Paso Austin, 1969
- 38 Byron Roberts, Abilene, Texas, 1977
- 38 Steve Rogers, Albuquerque, 1978
- 37 Mickey Wise, Abilene Cooper, 1965
- 37 Claude Giddens, Carlsbad, 1970
- 37 Gary Brewster, Midland, 1971
- 36 Tommy Clark, Roswell, 1958
- 35 Mike Oakes, Albuquerque Valley, 1965
- 35 Lovard Coleman, Alamogordo, 1969
- 35 Dick Hunsaker, Clovis, 1972
- 35 Tony Wofford, Lovington, 1973
- 35 Milton Gibson, Roswell Goddard, 1974



Milton Gibson
Roswell Goddard
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Adam Beadle
Las Cruces
39 pts.

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1978

JEFF TAYLOR, Texas Tech
STEVE SMITH, Texas Tech

1976

KENT WILLIAMS, Texas Tech
DARRYL JONES, United State International
ELVIS RICE, Henderson State*

1975

DONNIE THOMPSON, Pan American
KEVIN KEELING, Abilene Christian
LATRAIL JONES, University of Wyoming*
JOHN BABER, Texas A&M*

1974

HENRY TAYLOR, Pan American, NBA San Antonio Spurs

1973

GREG HUTCHINGS, University of Oklahoma*
KENNETH WALKER, Western New Mexico*
RICHARD ROBINSON, New Mexico State, NBA San Antonio
Spurs
EUGENE SMITH, West Texas State

1972

DONNIE JACKSON, New Mexico State

1971

JAMES WARD, Los Angeles Baptist
EASY PUGH, Sam Houston State
DICKIE SPEEGLE, University of New Mexico*
CHARLIE HUTCHINGS, Northern Colorado

1970

LARRY ROBINSON, University of Texas, NBA Houston
Rockets, ABA Virginia Squires
LARRY WILLIAMS, Kansas State, NBA Milwaukee Bucks, ABA
Virginia Squires
ROBERT BROOKS, New Mexico Highlands
JAMES DICKERSON, Los Angeles Baptist
DUANE HENRY, Trinity University
RANDALL PUGH, Trinity University
TIMMY TASKER, New Mexico State
MIKE CLAMPITT, NL Chicago Cubs**

1969

HARRY WARD, New Mexico State, NBA Portland Trailblazers,
ABA Utah Stars
CLAUDE HEAVEN, Los Angeles Baptist

1968

TEDDY HARRELL, Louisiana State at New Orleans
DANNY WHITLOCK, Texas Western
JOHN FENNER, Hardin Simmons

1967

MAX PROCTOR, Ft. Lewis College, ABA San Antonio Spurs

1966

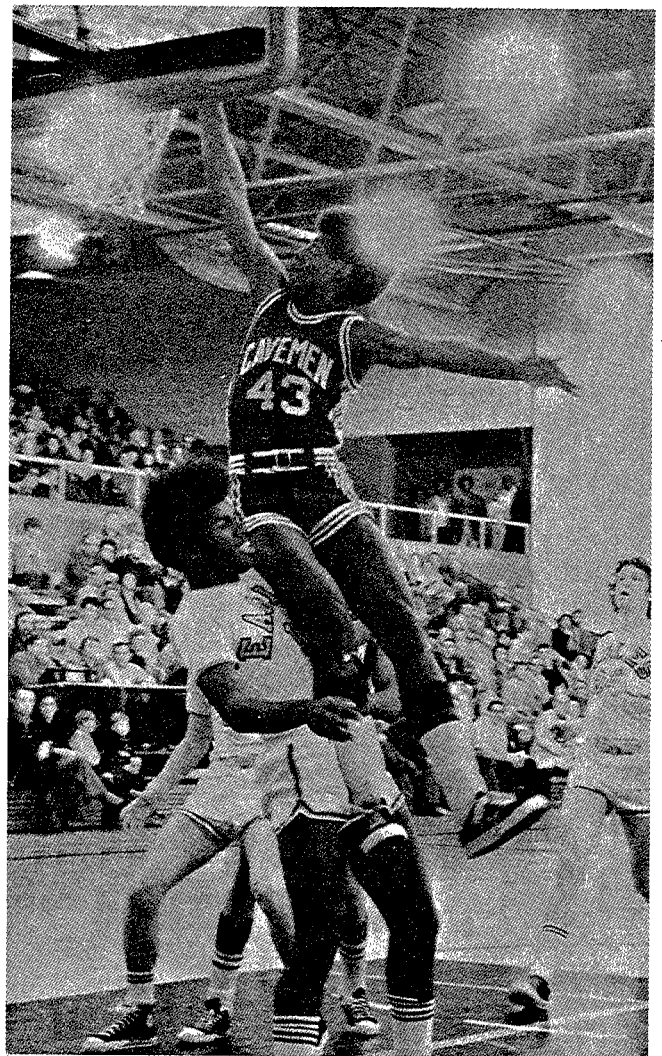
ROY LEE FORD, North Texas State, Stephen F. Austin
DANNY WATKINS, Ft. Lewis College
HARDY RAY MURPHY, New Mexico State
DANNY SILVER, University of New Mexico*
MIKE HOLLIDAY, Texas Tech*

1965

MARVIN SCHMITT, Western New Mexico, NBA Phoenix
RUSTY HESKETT, San Angelo State

1964

JOE USSERY, Texas Tech
GARY OVERBECK, University of Texas
ROBERT EVANS, Lubbock Christian



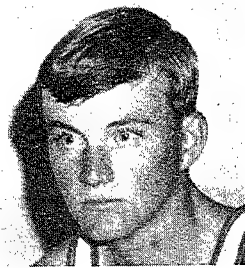
Latrail Jones, now a running back at Wyoming, takes a charge in 1975 Hobbs-Carlsbad game won by the Eagles, 117-73.

1963

TOM CARTER, San Angelo State
JIMMY BRIDGES, Eastern New Mexico
CLIFFORD POWELL, New Mexico Highlands



Kevin Keeling



Marvin Schmitt

1962

ZEAK WILLIAMS, Texas Western***
 RICHARD DABNEY, Harlem Clowns
 BOB DOSHER, University of New Mexico*
 DON WILLINGHAM, University of New Mexico*
 JOE ALLEN, Eastern New Mexico

1961

STAN LYNCH, Ft. Lewis College
 CHARLES VANDIVER, Waylan Baptist

1960

HOLLICE CLAY, University of Oklahoma
 CHARLES BECKNELL, University of Albuquerque
 LARRY DUNAWAY, Sul Ross College

1959

DON ABBOTT, Ft. Lewis College

1958

RICHARD HALL, Phillips University
 JOE SMITH, New Mexico Highlands
 JIMMY DRAKE, Western New Mexico
 JON HEFLIN, New Mexico Highlands

1957

BILL BRIDGES, University of Kansas, ABA Kansas City, NBA Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Golden State (NBA champs)
 AUBREY LINEE, Texas Christian, NFL Baltimore Colts*
 MARQUES LANDRUIN, Yale
 RAY CLAY, New Mexico State, Harlem Clowns

1956

KIM NASH, Southern Methodist University, ABA Dallas Chaparrals
 GERALD COPPEDGE, Western New Mexico*
 CORNELIUS PATTERSON, Western New Mexico*

1955

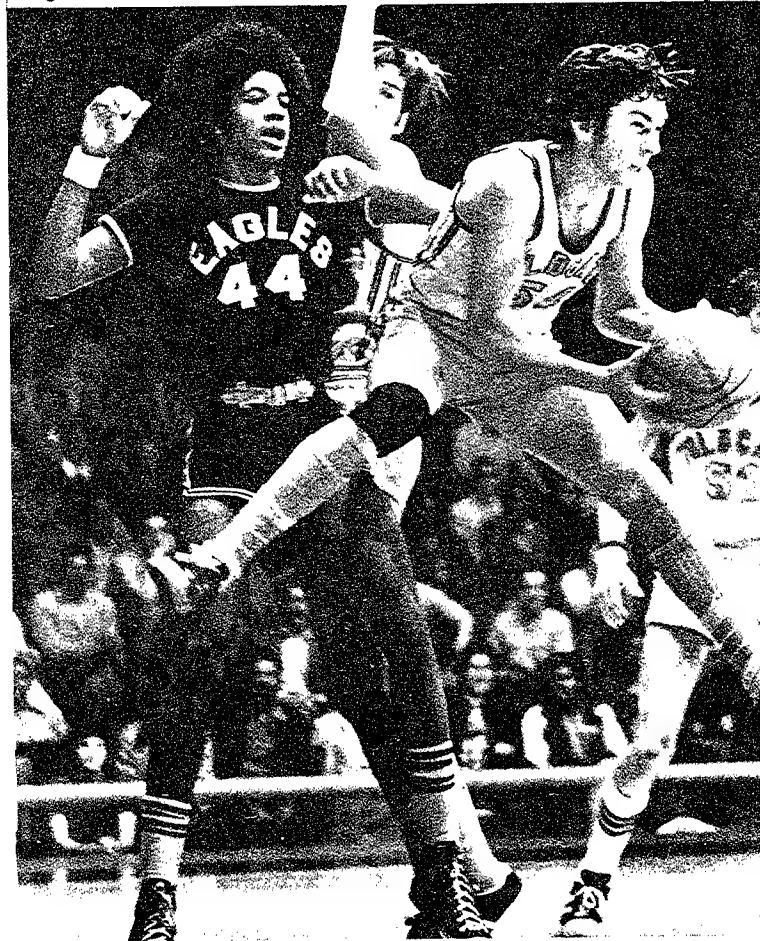
WINSTON PICKERING, University of New Mexico

1954

ROLAND WILDER, Southern Cal*
 GARY SLOAN, University of New Mexico*
 DUB PIERCE, Hardin Simmons**
 LIN WHITE, University of New Mexico*
 ERTIS DAVIS, University of New Mexico*

1953

Since 1938, close to 100 graduates from the Hobbs' basketball program have attended four-year schools on athletic scholarships. This list does not include the countless number of players who attended junior college but does include their names if they later attend a four-year school. Such is the case with Henry Taylor, a 1974 graduate of Hobbs who attended South Plains JC before a two-year career at Pan American, where he was the nation's second leading rebounder against major NCAA competition. He was drafted in 1978 by the San Antonio Spurs. Ten former Eagles have been drafted by the pros and two have played with the Harlem Clowns. Two additional graduates, Max Proctor and Kim Nash, made unsuccessful attempts in the ABA as free agents.



Houston Westchester's Dirk Hoyt intercepts pass intended for Hobbs' All-American Richard Robinson in 1972. Dr. Pepper Classic in Houston. Robinson later played at New Mexico State. (Houston Chronicle photo)

1949

JOHN WATSON, University of New Mexico*

1947

ROBERT OWENS, Navy*

1944

COSTIN BUFKIN, Texas Tech*

Heizer, Highland & Houston:

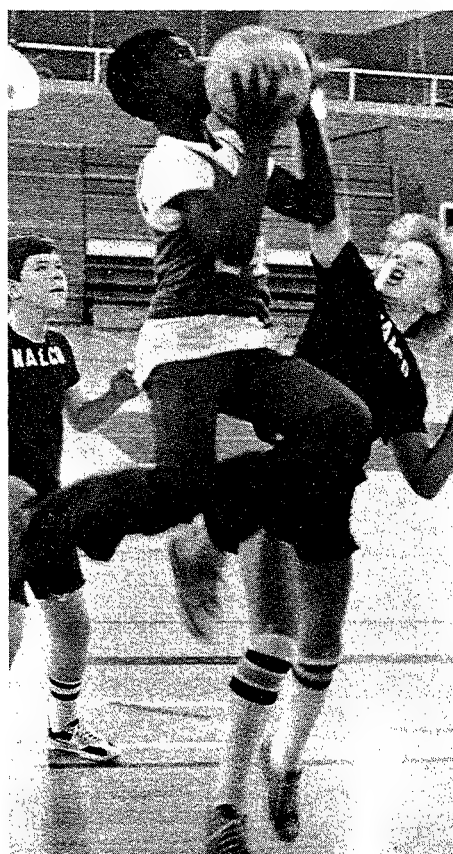
The Ralph

They call it the best junior high basketball program in the U.S.A. Of course "they" are the basketball fans in Hobbs, New Mexico. But they claim to have the stats to back it up.

Take the finals of the 1978 Border Conference Tournament for example. Highland, relegated to the chaser's role for much of the first half, came out blazing in the third quarter to break open a tight game en route to a 126-97 victory over Houston in the finals of the local ninth-grade carnival.

The game was a "rubber match" of the sorts between two of the three famous Hobbs junior high schools. The third is Heizer. In two earlier regular-season encounters, Highland won the first 134-89 and Houston the second 108-98. It was the fifth time since 1961 that the two schools had collided head-on in the finals of the ninth-grade tournament.

For the longest of times, it appeared that the game would be one of those down-to-the-wire classics that the Hobbs schools are so fond of playing.



These are junior high games folks; played with only one ball during four eight minute quarters (see chart).

In a low-scoring seventh-grade match in 1975, Heizer's little (5-8) Wallace Williams shattered all existing city scoring records when he deposited 63 points in the bucket for his victorious Heizer unit, beating Houston's speedy club 73-72. Mike Smith led all Houston scorers with 52 markers in a losing cause.

The situation was normal earlier in a typical ninth-grade shootout. Houston, averaging 100 points per game, locked horns with Heizer and got their 100 points as usual. Coach Mike Espinosa's Demons won 113-105 but had to go into overtime before shaking off Heizer's Kardiak Kids.

The game won Southwest Game of the Year honors (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah), outpointing the best and most exciting games played on the varsity level in the four-corner states. Selected by the *Southwest Sports News Service* in Phoenix, the award caused *Hobbs Daily News-Sun* sports editor Manny Marquez to chuckle.

Marquez sees all this as a common, everyday affair: "What the heck. That's nothing new around here. The kids who play basketball in Hobbs think the object of the game is to fullcourt press and score 100 points every night."

There are three junior highs in the Hobbs School System — also known as the Ralph Tasker Basketball Factory — Houston, Highland and Heizer. Each school enrolls students from the seventh grade through the ninth. All compete in the Border Conference, which also includes Lovington Central, Carlsbad Colts, Carlsbad Ponies, Lovington Taylor, Artesia Park, Jal and Eunice.

During 1975, Houston won the title by burying Lovington Central 118-85 when young Steve Smith (now a freshman at Texas Tech) poured in 40 points. The Demons never looked

Little Mike Smith poured in 52 points against Heizer's seventh-graders in 1975 contest, but his team lost 73-72 because Heizer's Wallace Williams scored 63 points, an all-time Hobbs Junior High city record.



back, finished unbeaten at 16-0 and averaged 99.3 points per game. Their high game was a 116-101 donnybrook with the Carlsbad Ponies — 36 points shy of their own school record of 152.

During the summer months, as many as 90 youth basketball teams have competed in the Hobbs Summer Recreation Program, playing close to 100 games a week. The kids range in age eight through adulthood, and games are held from 8 a.m. in the morning to 10 p.m. at night in Ralph Tasker Arena.

If varsity games played each winter in Tasker Arena would tickle P.T. Bar-

Tasker Basketball Factory

num and James Bailey, they'd go bananas over junior high and summer league games.

On July 4, 1978, when most Americans were crowding into amusement parks throughout the country to witness fireworks, basketball fans in Hobbs were filing into "heated" Tasker Arena to watch the West All-Stars beat the East All-Stars 187-150.

Honest!

Prep All-American Jeff Taylor, now a freshman at Texas Tech, paced the winners with 39 points. Older brother Henry Taylor, the nation's second leading major college rebounder last season at Pan American University, took game honors with 55 points.

Honest!

Basketball fans in the Southwest hadn't seen anything that thrilling since the first oil was discovered in Lea County years ago. Then there was that incredible mismatch in a 14-year-old league game two years ago. With young Wallace Williams and Vic

Williams each scoring 52 points, Dilworth's Automatic Shop caught fire for 111 second half points on their way to a 207-45 shelacking of Whitaker's Sporting Goods.

You have to see it to believe it. And during the regular season these are the men who make it go:

•Coach Bob Ballard has coached at Highland Junior High for 11 years. Coach Roy Martin has provided sound fundamentals for the Bears' seventh-grade teams, while Larry Harvey has guided the Highland Cubs to several Border Conference championships.

•Larry Hines recently took over the reigns for the Heizer eighth-graders, and is assisted by Eldrin Malone and Fidel Sosa, whose teams are noted for team spirit and enthusiasm — important ingredients for future Hobbs Eagles.

•Houston ninth-grade coach Mike Espinosa has been in the Hobbs School System for seven years. Coach Pat McMurray, a 1972 Hobbs graduate,

recorded a perfect record with his 1976-77 Imp seventh-graders. The late Melvin Shaw played basketball in the Hobbs Summer Recreation and Winter Leagues, and in junior high. He developed a love for the game which he implanted in his eighth-grade teams at Houston, displaying the Eagle spirit which is necessary for exciting basketball. The many fans in Hobbs were saddened by his death in an automobile accident last summer.

Each season, Ralph Tasker's message to his junior high coaches is always the same, and he means every bit of it: "It is with sincere gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank our junior high coaches for another great job. Their many hours of hard work and dedication to the youth of Hobbs hasn't gone unheeded. Without these talented men the Hobbs Eagles would not have been able to experience the success of the past seasons. Keep up the good work and let's keep those Hobbs Eagles flying high."

(continued)

HOBBS CITY JUNIOR HIGH RECORDS

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

- 63* Wallace Williams, Heizer vs Houston, 1975
- 52* Mike Smith, Houston vs Heizer, 1975
- 46 Richard Robinson, Heizer vs Carlsbad Colts, 1970
- 45 John Baber, Highland vs Carlsbad Colts, 1972
- 44 Latrail Jones, Houston vs Highland, 1972
- 41 Johnny Taylor, Highland vs Houston, 1977
- 40 Vince Taylor, Highland vs Jal, 1978
- 40 Steve Smith, Highland vs Lovington Taylor, 1975

*7th grade game

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME (SEASON)

- 32.6 Wallace Williams, Heizer, 1977
- 26.5 John Baber, Highland, 1972
- 25.8 Mike Smith, Houston, 1977
- 25.5 Jeff Taylor, Houston, 1975

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)

- 39 Vince Taylor, Highland vs Jal, 1978
- 36 Johnny Taylor, Highland vs Houston, 1977
- 33 Johnny Taylor, Highland vs Houston, 1977
- 32 Randall Troop, Highland vs Lovington Taylor, 1973
- 31 Jim Jeffers, Highland vs Lovington Taylor, 1968
- 31 Richard Jeffers, Highland vs Carlsbad Colts, 1972
- 30 Mike Smith, Houston vs Artesia Park, 1977
- 30 Dean McCullough, Highland vs Carlsbad Ponies, 1969

AVERAGE REBOUNDS PER GAME (SEASON)

- 20.3 Mike Smith, Houston, 1977
- 18.2 Vince Taylor, Highland, 1978
- 18.2 Johnny Taylor, Highland, 1977
- 15.1 Jeff Taylor, Houston, 1975
- 11.8 Marty McIlroy, Houston, 1978

JUNIOR HIGH RECORDS (continued)

MOST ASSISTS (GAME)

- 25 Mike Smith, Houston vs Highland, 1977
- 25 Mike Smith, Houston vs Artesia Park, 1977
- 23 Mike Smith, Houston vs Heizer, 1977
- 18 Mike Smith, Houston vs Jal, 1977
- 16 Adam Garza, Houston vs Heizer, 1975
- 14 Darryl Jones, Highland vs Houston, 1973

AVERAGE ASSISTS PER GAME (SEASON)

- 15.9 Mike Smith, Houston, 1977
- 10.1 Elvis Rice, Houston, 1973
- 9.0 Shaun Wilson, Houston, 1978

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS (SEASON)

- 62 Jeff Taylor, Houston, 1975
- 44 Vince Taylor, Highland, 1978
- 44 Rex Spear, Highland, 1974
- 31 Johnny Taylor, Highland, 1977

MOST CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS

- 17 Mike McVay, Highland, 1969-70
- 14 Steve Smith, Houston, 1974-75
- 10 Brad Ray, Highland, 1978
- 10 Brad Kerley, Highland, 1977

MOST FREE THROWS (GAME)

- 14 Steve Smith, Houston vs Lovington Central, 1975
- 10 Brad Ray, Highland vs Houston, 1978

MOST STEALS (SEASON)

- 135 Mike Smith, Houston, 1977 (8.4 pg.)
- 131 Jeff Taylor, Houston, 1975 (8.2 pg.)
- 126 Darryl Jones, Highland, 1973 (7.9 pg.)

MOST STEALS (GAME)

- 25 Mike Smith, Houston vs Artesia Park, 1977
- 19 Carl Franklin, Houston vs Lovington Central, 1975

TEAM RECORDS

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

- 152 by Houston vs Jal (25), 1968
- 149 by Highland vs Jal (56), 1973
- 137 by Highland vs Jal (49), 1978
- 134 by Highland vs Houston (89), 1977
- 129 by Heizer vs Jal (55), 1973
- 126 by Highland vs Houston (97), 1978
- 126 by Houston vs Eunice (53), 1977
- 125 by Highland vs Lovington Taylor (98), 1972

MOST POINTS SCORED (SEASON)

- 1785 Houston, 1977 (14-3)
- 1755 Highland, 1978 (15-2)
- 1700 Houston, 1968 (17-0)
- 1618 Highland, 1977 (12-4)
- 1598 Houston, 1978 (15-2)
- 1595 Houston, 1975 (16-0)
- 1553 Heizer, 1976 (15-2)

AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME

- 105.0 Houston, 1977 (14-3)
- 103.2 Highland, 1978 (15-2)
- 101.1 Highland, 1977 (12-4)
- 100.0 Houston, 1968 (17-0)
- 99.4 Houston, 1975 (16-0)
- 99.1 Houston, 1978 (15-2)
- 96.8 Houston, 1973 (12-4)
- 92.6 Highland, 1973 (14-2)
- 91.4 Heizer, 1976 (15-2)

MOST 100-POINT GAMES (SEASON)

- 11 Highland, 1978
- 11 Highland, 1977
- 10 Houston, 1977
- 9 Houston, 1975
- 7 Houston, 1978
- 7 Houston, 1976
- 7 Houston, 1973
- 7 Houston, 1972

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS

- 17 Houston, 1967-68
- 17 Houston, 1974-75
- 16 Heizer, 1976-77
- 15 Highland, 1966-67

MOST WINS (SEASON)

- 17-0 Houston, 1968
- 16-0 Houston, 1975
- 16-1 Heizer, 1977

MOST POINTS SCORED (TWO TEAMS)

- 229 Houston 115, Highland 114, 1977
- 225 Houston 115, Highland 110, 1977
- 224 Highland 113, Houston 111, 1977
- 223 Highland 134, Houston 89, 1976
- 223 Highland 126, Houston 97, 1978

MOST POINTS SCORED (LOSING GAME)

- 114 Highland vs Houston (115), 1977
- 111 Houston vs Highland (113), 1977
- 110 Highland vs Houston (115), 1977
- 105 Heizer vs Houston (113), 1975
- 100 Highland vs Heizer (103), 1977

LARGEST WINNING MARGIN (GAME)

- 127 Houston 152, Jal 25, 1968
- 93 Highland 149, Jal 56, 1973
- 82 Houston 134, Carlsbad Ponies 52, 1977

MOST REBOUNDS (GAME)

- 91 Houston vs Artesia Park, 1977
- 89 Highland vs Jal, 1973
- 82 Highland vs Lovington Central, 1973
- 81 Houston vs Highland, 1975
- 79 Highland vs Heizer, 1975
- 76 Highland vs Eunice, 1971
- 73 Highland vs Carlsbad Colts, 1973
- 71 Highland vs Eunice, 1972

MOST REBOUNDS (SEASON)

- 1218 Houston, 1977
- 1183 Highland, 1977
- 1026 Houston, 1975
- 1012 Highland, 1978
- 1001 Houston, 1974
- 953 Highland, 1973
- 929 Highland, 1975

AVERAGE REBOUNDS PER GAME

- 73.9 Highland, 1977
- 71.6 Houston, 1977
- 69.1 Houston, 1975
- 62.5 Houston, 1974
- 59.5 Houston, 1978

MOST INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)

- 56 Houston vs Highland, 1975
- 55 Houston vs Heizer, 1975
- 54 Houston vs Highland, 1977
- 47 Highland vs Lovington Taylor, 1972
- 44 Highland vs Heizer, 1973

MOST INTERCEPTIONS (SEASON)

- 581 Highland, 1978
- 525 Highland, 1977
- 500 Highland, 1973

MOST ASSISTS (GAME)

- 62 Houston vs Artesia Park, 1977
- 60 Houston vs Highland, 1975
- 51 Highland vs Jal, 1973
- 37 Highland vs Lovington Taylor, 1973

MOST ASSISTS (SEASON)

- 478 Houston, 1977
- 472 Houston, 1975
- 469 Highland, 1973
- 435 Highland, 1975



EAGLE COACHING RECORDS SINCE 1930

1978	Jim Cromartie	8-3
1977	Jim Cromartie	4-7
1976	Jim Cromartie	3-8
1975	Pat Tone	4-7
1974	Pat Tone	8-5
1973	Pat Tone	10-4
1972*	Pat Tone	10-2
1971	Doug Ethridge	9-2-1
1970*	Doug Ethridge	12-1
1969	Doug Ethridge	8-5
1968	Doug Ethridge	9-2
1967	Harry Phipps	2-9
1966	Harry Phipps	6-5
1965	Bob Burris	11-1
1964	Gary Sloan	3-7-1
1963	Gary Sloan	1-9-1
1962	Gary Sloan	5-4-1
1961	Gary Sloan	7-2-1
1960	Joe Mobra	0-9-1
1959	Joe Mobra	2-8
1958	Monroe Harrelson	2-8
1957	Monroe Harrelson	3-6-1
1956	Duane Fisher	6-5
1955	Duane Fisher	5-5
1954	Duane Fisher	0-10
1953	Duane Fisher	7-2-1
1952	Duane Fisher	10-1
1951	Duane Fisher	7-2-1
1950	Duane Fisher	7-2-1
1949*	Duane Fisher	11-0
1948*	Duane Fisher	10-1
1947	Nelson Tydings	5-4
1946	Nelson Tydings	5-6

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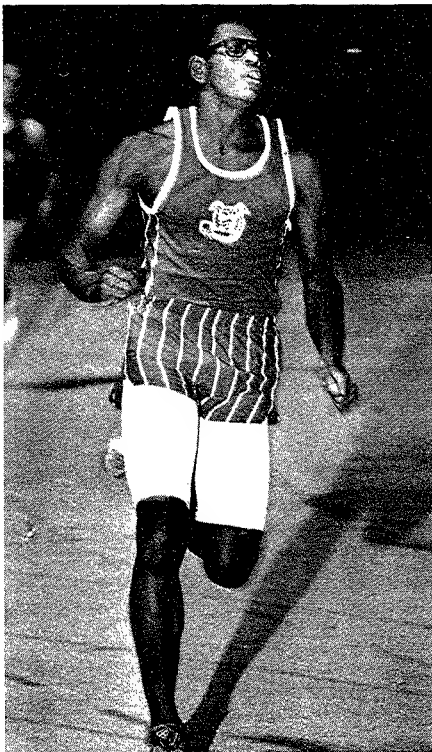
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(602) 967-7256

100 YARD DASH

- 9.5 Ray Etherly, Albuquerque, 1960
- 9.5 Zeak Williams, Hobbs, 1962
- 9.5 Vernon Patterson, Hobbs, 1973
- 9.5 James Parker, Clovis, 1973
- 9.5 Gary Johnson, Highland, 1975
- 9.5 Mike Carter, Sandia, 1977
- 9.5 Chris Hollins, Albuquerque, 1977
- 9.6 Curtis Lewis, Carlsbad, 1958
- 9.6 James Young, Albuquerque, 1964
- 9.6 James Lewis, Carlsbad, 1967
- 9.6 Steve Pettes, L.C. Mayfield, 1970
- 9.6 Ted Himebaugh, Silver City, 1971
- 9.6 Eric Coleman, Deming, 1975
- 9.6 Kevin Evans, Clovis, 1975
- 9.6 Mike Storms, Del Norte, 1977
- 9.6 Phil Trent, Sandia, 1977
- 9.6 Gilbert Smith, Carlsbad, 1978

220 YARD DASH (CURVE)

- 20.7 Ray Etherly, Albuquerque, 1961
- 21.2 Charley Kasper, Highland, 1968
- 21.3 James Parker, Clovis, 1973
- 21.5 Darryl Foster, Albuquerque, 1968
- 21.5 Gil Perea, Albuq. Valley, 1968
- 21.5 Vernon Patterson, Hobbs, 1973
- 21.5 Gilbert Smith, Carlsbad, 1978



Roswell's Joe Parker: 47.2 in 1978.



Hobbs' Clay Daniels: 48.0 in 1978.

220 YARD DASH (STRAIGHT)

- 20.6 Zeak Williams, Hobbs, 1962
- 20.7 Jim Childs, Roswell, 1963
- 20.9 Charlie Matlock, Las Cruces, 1962
- 21.0 James Young, Albuquerque, 1964
- 21.2 Hiram Carroll, Albuquerque, 1960
- 21.3 Bradshaw Murphy, Hobbs, 1957
- 21.3 Sam Duncan, Albuquerque, 1957
- 21.4 Tommy McDonald, Highland, 1954
- 21.4 Charles Matlock, Las Cruces, 1962

440 YARD DASH

- 47.2 Joseph Parker, Roswell, 1978
- 48.0 Hiram Carroll, Albuquerque, 1960
- 48.0 James Young, Albuquerque, 1964
- 48.0 Clay Daniels, Hobbs 1978
- 48.0 Chris Knighton, Clovis, 1978
- 48.1 Art Gardenswartz, Highland, 1960
- 48.1 Gil Perea, Albuq. Valley, 1968
- 48.2 Matt Henry, Del Norte, 1970
- 48.3 Gary Spreacker, Sandia, 1963
- 48.3 James Treadwell, Hobbs 1972
- 48.4 Latrail Jones, Hobbs, 1974
- 48.5 Joe Jacobs, Hobbs, 1965
- 48.5 Barry Myles, Alamogordo, 1976
- 48.7 Jim Childs, Roswell, 1962
- 48.7 Jimmy Bellah, Lovington, 1976

880 YARD RUN

- 1:50.7 Chuck Aragon, Los Lunas, 1977
- 1:53.1 Pat Cox, Manzano, 1964
- 1:53.1 Mike Vaughn, Hobbs, 1969
- 1:53.2 Reid Cole, Sandia, 1969
- 1:53.5 Carey Hollis, Hobbs, 1966
- 1:54.2 Mark Romero, Albuq. Valley, 1975
- 1:54.6 Steve Collins, Hobbs, 1966

MILE RUN

- 4:09.9 Carey Hollis, Hobbs, 1969
- 4:12.6 Rick Rojas, Los Alamos, 1970
- 4:15.3 Mark Freeman, Portales, 1973
- 4:15.5 Jay Mason, Hobbs, 1967
- 4:17.2 Willie Martinez, Carlsbad, 1973
- 4:17.3 Bob Ayres, Highland, 1970
- 4:17.3 Ruben Linares, Goddard, 1975
- 4:17.9 Andy Martinez, Grants, 1974
- 4:19.1 Ramon Leyba, Albuquerque, 1966
- 4:19.1 David Barnaby, St. Pius, 1977
- 4:19.5 Richard Ramos, Del Norte, 1970

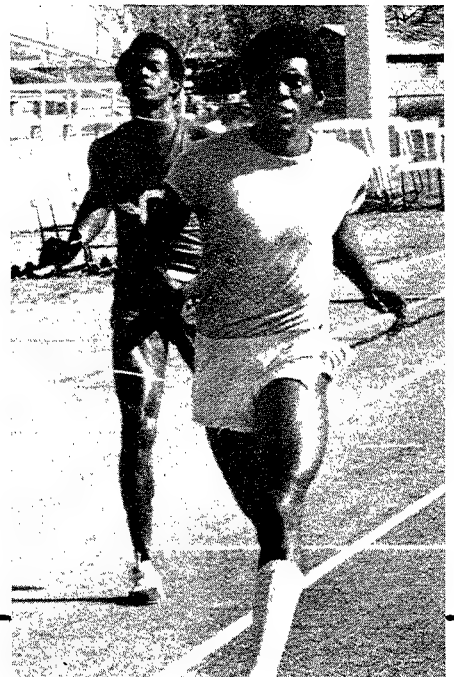
TWO-MILE RUN

- 9:11.1 Carey Hollis, Hobbs, 1969
- 9:11.4 Jay Mason, Hobbs, 1967
- 9:21.3 Ruben Linares, Goddard, 1975
- 9:29.0 Gary Louis, Grants, 1977
- 9:29.1 Andy Martinez, 1974

THREE-MILE RUN

- 14:08.4 Anthony Sandoval, Los Alamos, 1972
- 14:22.0 Ruben Linares, Goddard, 1974

Hobbs' Latrail Jones: 48.4 in 1974.



120 HIGH HURDLES

- 13.9 Paul Gibson, Carlsbad, 1966
13.9 Rick Tipton, Silver City, 1967
14.0 Henry Martin, Jal, 1968
14.0 Roscoe Meadors, Carlsbad, 1969
14.0 Mike King, Carlsbad, 1976
14.1 Ken Edwards, Hobbs, 1971
14.1 Kenneth Johnson, Hobbs, 1973
14.1 Ed Van Zandt, Farmington, 1976

180 LOW HURDLES

- 18.7 Richard Osborn, Clovis, 1963
18.8 Keith Alexander, Lovington, 1978
18.9 Jim Blair, Highland, 1958
18.9 Paul Gibson, Carlsbad, 1966
18.9 Henry Martin, Jal, 1968
18.9 Paul Alexander, Lovington, 1978
19.0 Hiram Carroll, Albuquerque, 1960
19.0 Mike King, Carlsbad, 1976
19.0 Anthony Austin, Silver City, 1976
19.0 Dean Crowell, Eunice, 1976

330 INTERMEDIATES

- 38.6 Kenneth Johnson, Hobbs, 1974
39.4 Paul Alexander, Lovington, 1978
39.8 Keith Alexander, Lovington, 1978

SHOT PUT

- 62-1½ Jack Chappell, NMMI, 1961
59-11¼ Kris Lundgaard, Las Alamos, 1977
59-9 Steve Keppers, Highland, 1967
59-4 Jacob Cannon, Roswell, 1974
58-7¾ Ronald Sowell, Artesia, 1965
58-2 Steve Sears, Las Cruces, 1970

DISCUS

- 183-5 Danny Lord, Jal, 1967
179-9¾ Dewey Bohling, Albuquerque, 1955
178-0 Jim Braye, Sandia, 1969
177-3½ Raynard Makin, Hobbs, 1966
177-2 Steve Sears, Las Cruces, 1970
176-7 Kirk Hardin, Del Norte, 1971
176-4 Mike Jeffreys, Highland, 1964
174-11 David Lumbkin, NMMI, 1973
174-10¾ Phil Gutierrez, Valley, 1966
174-3 Phil Morgan, Goddard, 1970
173-11 Larry Burleson, Hobbs, 1974

JAVELIN

- 231-5 George Stevens, Del Norte, 1969
220-10 David Sage, Hobbs, 1972
218-4 Jerry Stewart, Clovis, 1973
215-9 Jack Graham, Highland, 1972
211-7 Skipper Vernon, Del Norte, 1975
210-10 Anthony Montano, Farmington, 1974
203-4 Tom Cashon, Farmington, 1972

LONG JUMP

HIGH JUMP

- 6-9½ Eric Christianson, Sandia, 1964
6-9 Tom Pond, Sandia, 1972
6-8 Carl Hutchinson, Alamogordo, 1972
6-8 Mike Grant, Clovis, 1978
6-8 Jeff Wilder, Albuquerque, 1978
6-7½ Eugene Willard, Albuquerque, 1966
6-7 Frank Joseph, Highland, 1967
6-7 Tom Lindsey, Del Norte, 1973
6-7 David Muelker, Goddard, 1974

POLE VAULT

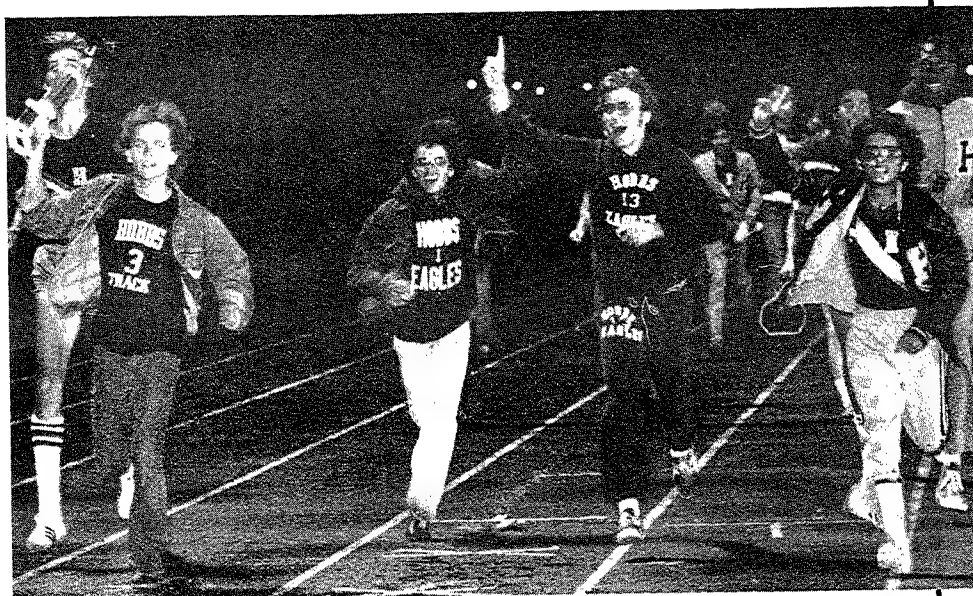
- 15-1¼ Gerlad Miller, Alamogordo, 1967
15-1 Kyd Kendrick, Sandia, 1978
14-8½ Jim Lincoln, Roswell, 1969
14-8 Brad Winter, Highland, 1970
14-8 Doug Kowalski, Del Norte, 1973
14-8 Dwayne Flowers, Hobbs, 1977
14-6 Mike Hosford, Las Cruces, 1975
14-6 Matt Wilkinson, Las Cruces, 1975
14-4½ Danny Brabham, Roswell, 1969

MILE RELAY

- 3:17.8 Albuquerque Del Norte, 1969
3:18.4 Hobbs, 1972
3:18.8 Albuquerque Highland, 1968
3:19.0 Hobbs, 1969
3:19.1 Hobbs, 1978
3:19.8 Clovis, 1978
3:20.2 Clovis, 1977
3:20.5 Hobbs, 1975
3:20.9 Hobbs, 1971
3:21.2 Las Cruces, 1962
3:21.8 Albuquerque, 1972
3:22.0 Albuquerque Sandia, 1974
3:22.1 Albuquerque Valley, 1968

SPRINT MEDLEY (220, 220, 440, 880)

- 3:27.0 Hobbs, 1966
3:27.5 Albuquerque Del Norte, 1970
3:29.5 Albuquerque Highland, 1970
3:31.1 Albuquerque Manzano, 1963
3:31.8 Carlsbad, 1973
3:31.9 Albuquerque Manzano, 1978



440 RELAY

- 41.7 Albuquerque, 1960
41.7 Hobbs, 1969
41.9 Albuquerque Highland, 1970
41.9 Hobbs, 1972
41.9 Hobbs, 1973
42.0 Albuquerque, 1962
42.1 Albuquerque, 1968
42.1 Del Norte, 1970
42.2 Carlsbad, 1966
42.2 Hobbs, 1973
42.2 Hobbs, 1974
42.2 Clovis, 1977

- 3:32.9 Clovis, 1978
3:33.1 Albuquerque Valley, 1966
3:33.4 Hobbs, 1976
3:33.4 Hobbs, 1978
3:33.7 Albuquerque, 1966
3:33.7 Albuquerque Manzano, 1975



school basketball games. A lot of your better football players also play basketball.

"Hobbs had a couple of kids we wanted. They were twins as I remember. One of them played on Ralph Tasker's basketball team. It's really tough to try and explain to somebody who hasn't been there, but I've never seen kids play basketball like that before."

"Have you ever played against an army of basketball players," wrote the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* in 1963. "It's like fighting an endless swarm of locusts."

Coach Bob King of Indiana State, former head coach at the University of New Mexico: "They always have great teamwork and balance. That great pride and tradition Tasker has installed in his players is the greatest I've ever seen."

King after Hobbs lost in double-overtime to Roswell in the 1963 state championship game: "I have seen tournaments in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, but I had never seen anything like that before. Hobbs showed some of the finest sportsmanship I have ever seen."

"Our program is the same here as all other teams in our district and state," says the Hobbs' head coach, always playing down the Eagles' success on the court. "Our city government sponsors a Saturday morning program for 6th graders here at the school during the season. Our school program starts in the 7th grade at our three junior highs, Houston, Highland and Heizer."

"Everybody in Hobbs uses the full-court pressing defense, as they think that is the only way to play the game of basketball. We never quit pressing regardless of the situation. We may have lost games in the past because of this, and we may lose some in the future, but we've won many more close games because of it."

"You don't have to be fast to press. We play a switching man-to-man press and it's just what it's called. Each man picks up his man and stays with him. We switch and occasionally double-team if the situation arises."

"We drill two-on-two, three-on-three, four-on-four and five-on-five, some or all every day. For many reasons we believe this is the best way to get the most out of your boys. After all, the boys are going to win or lose the games, not the coach."

For a school which has led the nation in scoring for over a decade, has scored 170 points two different times and more than 130 on 16 occasions, coaches are usually surprised to hear about the Eagles' offensive philosophy:

"We have a very simple offense that can be basically taught in 15 minutes," says Tasker. "Therefore we can spend most of our practice on the press and our sinking defense. We do not work on our offense more than half-an-hour each day, two days a week. We get our points mostly from our defense and fast break."

The gentleman coach of the Eagles turned 58 last summer. He will tell you that basketball has been very good to him throughout the years. His friends claim that he has also been very good to the game of basketball.

Tasker has been associated with other sports throughout his 33-year high school coaching career. He enjoys watching Hobbs play football for example. In fact, his record as a junior varsity football coach is better than his basketball record.

Still, basketball is the only game in town when December rolls around. "I just love basketball. There's something fascinating about the game. You never really know how well a team or an individual is going to do when they come out on the court."

"As a coach, I've found that basketball games are probably the hardest things around to predict. We've had many great teams who didn't win the state championships. Teams which went back to Albuquerque rated No. 1 in the state. It really hurts, but then I look up at the banners in the gymnasium and see the 1958 team. They lost 11 games yet won the state championship. You just never know."

Within five years, Tasker will find himself coaching in his 1,000th game. He may someday win 900 games. But he still won't take the credit for the phenomenal success of the Hobbs' basketball program. It's the great kids, he always says. The great fans. Assistant coaches like James Richards. The great facilities. "I've gotten some of my best coaching ideas and tips from my kids. I learned a long time ago to always listen to what the kids have to say."

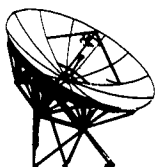
Tasker first fell in love with the game of basketball in Moundville, West

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Virginia, where he was born on July 15, 1919. He lived in the same house he was born in until he moved to Ohio to accept his first coaching job.

However, his basketball career got off on a shaky start when he was cut from his high school freshman team, but worked hard enough in the off-season to make the sophomore team the following year. He lived happily everafter.

Selected to the West Virginia all-state team during his junior and senior years, Tasker led the varsity in scoring as a senior. He later played at Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, where he met his wife, Margaret.

It was there that Tasker played on the same team as Ken Griffith, who broke Hank Luisetti's scoring record with 1,941 career points. Butch Wilmoth, the national high school scoring leader, was later to become Tasker's brother-in-law.

Had it not been for Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Tasker may never have found his way to New Mexico. He enlisted in the service in April of 1942, following his first and only season at Sulphur Springs, Ohio. He was stationed at bases in Louisville, Kentucky, and San Antonio, Texas, before serving the final war years at Kirtland Field in Albuquerque.

With his armed forces stint and more schooling out of the way, Tasker hit the job market in 1945. It was then that he found there were teaching and coaching jobs available in Mesa, Arizona, and Lovington, N.M.

"I didn't know how to drive to Mesa and I didn't have a car," he says. "So I figured I could get to Lovington by bus easier than I could get to Arizona. Boy, I remember that the wind was blowing sand all over the place and it was cold when I stepped off the bus. I thought for a while about going back home. I'm sure glad I didn't."

Three years later, Tasker and the Wildcats had a 52-22 record to show after three basketball seasons, not to mention Lovington's one and only state basketball title.

It was in the spring of 1949 that Finn Watson, then president of the Hobbs School Board, invited Tasker to move to Hobbs. He accepted. "They wouldn't let me have my own key to the gym in Lovington," he adds with a smile. "And can you believe it. After all these years a team from Mesa (near Phoenix) is coming all the way from Arizona to play in our Holiday Tournament. Just think, I might have coached there if I would have had a car. I hear it's a very nice community, with a new enthusiastic coach who is trying to rebuild a program which once won eleven state championships. He wants to expose his players to our program. We really consider that a great honor. It's a long ways from Phoenix. Maybe someday we'll get to play over there."

"But I've never regretted coming to Hobbs," he still insists. "This is a wonderful city with a lot of wonderful

"We do not work on our offense more than half-an-hour a day, two days a week. We have a very simple offense that can be taught in 15 minutes. We spend most of our time on the press and our sinking defense."

people. The people and their all-out support for basketball and other youth programs is a big reason to make our home here. I think it's the greatest thing in the world being coach of the Hobbs Eagles."

The biggest thrill for Tasker is still coming out of the dressing room on game nights and seeing close to 4,000 cheering fans packed to the rafters.

"Retire? I think it's the greatest thing in the world being coach of the Hobbs Eagles."

"It's like trying to play the Lobos in the Pit in Albuquerque," claims Clovis head coach, Jimmy Joe Robinson. "You have to see it to believe it."

"Their enthusiasm makes me enthusiastic," adds Tasker. "I know it makes our boys enthusiastic. Maybe that's why I love basketball so much. It's the finest recreation in the world. I've never been on a golf course. I've never been fishing in my life. This game is all I need to keep me happy."

It will be hard to find a public school anywhere in the United States which has won 76 percent of its basketball games over a period of 43 years.

It will also be hard to find a public school which has produced eight prep All-Americans, 45 first team all-stars, sent 88 players to four-year schools on athletic scholarships, had 10 players drafted by the pros and have all 151 of these youngsters grow up within a one-mile radius of the school's gymnasium.

Such is the plight of the Hobbs Eagles. Ralph Tasker may very well have built the best schoolboy cage "program" of its kind in the U.S.A.

Athletes like Bill Bridges and Larry Robinson will come and go, as state championship dreams come and go. The amazing Hobbs basketball program has never changed, only the names and faces in the lineups are different.

There are teams each season throughout the country who are better than Hobbs. There are sometimes teams in New Mexico which are better than Hobbs; and there are many schools nation-wide which produce greater talent. But year-after-year there is nothing quite like the way roundball is played in Ralph Tasker Arena.

As one Southwest Conference coach stated: "In all my years of coaching, I've never seen or coached against any team — on any level — that plays with as much enthusiasm and spirit as the Hobbs Eagles."

You have to see it to believe it. ●



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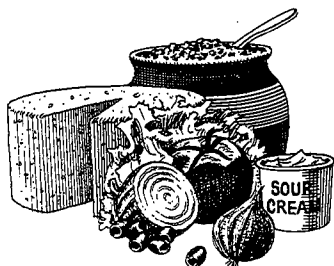
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Recreation For All

Anybody who says there's nothing to do in Hobbs, N.M., each summer is going to get a big argument from young Bob Gallagher. As the city's recreation superintendent, it's his job to see that people have something to do during their spare moments.

If it sounds as if Gallagher is somewhat proud of the Hobbs recreation program when he speaks of it, it's only because he is.

"We have swimming lessons for babies as young as 18 months and we have specialty classes that go right up through senior citizens," Gallagher said. "We have something for just about everybody. I think that with very few exceptions, everybody within the city participates, either physically or spectator-wise, in one aspect of our recreation program at one time or another during the year."

The "Big Three" among Hobbs recreation activities during the summer probably have to be baseball (including softball), basketball and swimming. The city has all the bases covered there.

Of course, when it comes to summer recreation basketball programs, Hobbs has a program that people are always trying to copy. It also has a lot to do with why Hobbs interscholastic basketball teams enjoy such tremendous success on the hardwood.

"The summer basketball program was full, as usual, this year," Gallagher said. "I'd say that between 250 and 300 kids and

adults played in the program every day and that over 500 are participating."

The city hires the people who set up the complete program, in cooperation with Ralph Tasker and the schools, Gallagher said, and the city also hires and pays the officials who work the games.

"Everybody knows this is one of the finest summer basketball programs in the country, aimed at trying to develop a better program for the schools and at the same time provide recreation for the kids, where they can get not only basketball knowledge but also learn sportsmanship and character."

"Everybody knows this is one of the finest summer basketball programs in the country . . . The program is aimed at trying to develop a better program for the schools and at the same time provide recreation for the kids . . ."

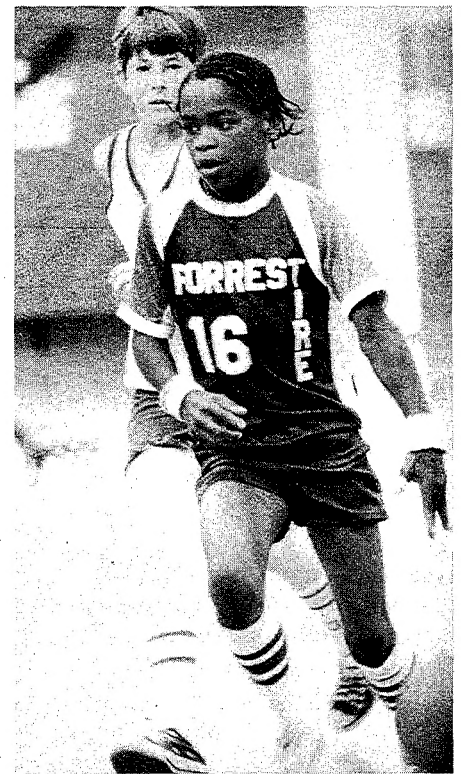
"The city's main responsibility is setting up practice fields for all the baseball and softball teams. In all, we came up with 52 practice fields this year," Gallagher said. "The men's softball teams don't have practice fields because we just don't have enough fields for everyone. The city also maintains the baseball fields and cuts the grass on them."

Since temperature readings in Hobbs have a habit of hanging around the 100-degree-mark at this time of year, it shouldn't be too surprising to learn that swimming is one of the most popular activities in town. Some 30,000 people swam in the city's two outdoor pools last year and, with the addition of the indoor pool at Hobbs High School, that number was considerably higher this summer.

It would be impossible to point out every activity available under the city's recreation program. The kids have tennis, swimming, baseball-softball, weight-lifting, playground activities, golf lessons at Ocotillo Park under Tony Bell and junior superstars and a special program for three, four and five-year-olds, to mention just a few. For the men, there's softball, superstars, adult swimming classes and racquetball-handball.

Available for women are swimming, volleyball, softball and the specialty classes in ceramics, china painting, oil painting, exercise classes and macrame.

"We have gained national recognition for one particular education program which we have in cooperation with the Hobbs Association of Retarded Citizens," Gallagher said. "Of course, people in the state and Southwest point to our joint-use agreement with the schools for use of the indoor swimming pools and ten-



nis courts. And, in a study of recreation programs in cities in New Mexico and Texas done by some one at Eastern New Mexico University, the consensus was that Hobbs, not only for this size town, but period, had an excellent all-around program — one to envy."

For that, Gallagher points to two very good reasons:

Reason No. 1: "The biggest reason we have the type of program we do have is because of the citizens of Hobbs and the city administration. They want only the best — particularly for their youngsters."

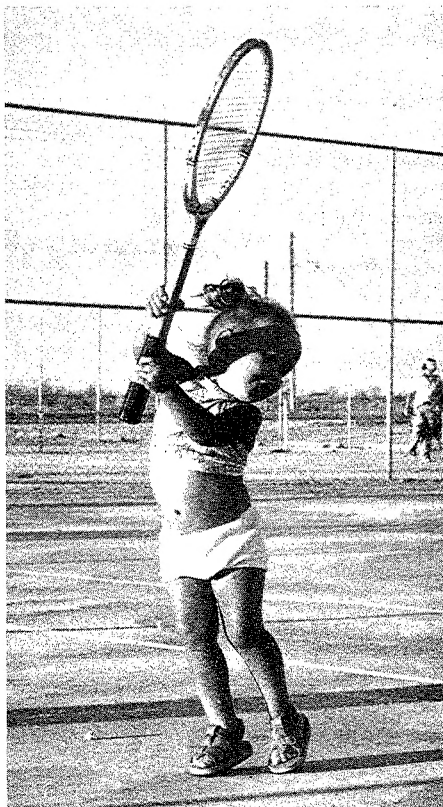
Reason No. 2: "The facilities we have are second to none. We have two of the finest handball-racquetball courts around. Someone told me that there are only four city-owned handball courts in all of Dallas. Then I was talking to a man from

"In a study of recreation programs in cities in New Mexico and Texas, the consensus was that Hobbs had an excellent all-around program, one to envy."

Memphis the other day and he told me Memphis doesn't have any outdoor, city-owned tennis courts that compare to ours."

While the city's recreation program is as good as you'll find anywhere, those responsible for it are always looking for ways to improve it.

"Plans call for organizing a flag football league in the near future, probably in late August or the first part of September," Gallagher said. "We feel like any kind of recreation program whatsoever that any citizen in Hobbs wants, we're open to ideas and, in most cases, we can fulfill the demands if there is enough interest."



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